WALSALL
thechronicle
Thursday, October 27, 2011 15p when sold

Saddlers goal ace becomes the man in black – Page 28

Chance to win tickets for top food show – Page 29

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BRITISH SUMMERTIME ENDS
Sunday 30th October
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Fish pedicures axed as health fears nibble away

A WALSALL spa specialising in fish pedicures has closed down after reports of health risks scared customers away.

Five people have lost their jobs in the closure of Tootsies, which has seen daily customer numbers plummet from 40 to just eight.

Reports surfaced last week that the treatment, which sees fish nibble away dead skin, can cause infections in people with sores of cuts to their feet.

Manager Sharon O'Mara said the owner had now made the decision to close the store inside the Saddlers Centre.

She said: "When I came into work on Tuesday, the place was empty. The fish had been taken out, the tanks had been removed and the till had gone.

Indulgence

"I called the owner to see what was going on and he said it was closed and the company was going into liquidation.

"Five people have lost their jobs because of this. How are we going to pay our bills?

"I just can't believe it. I knew we were struggling after the news reports but I thought we would be safe until Christmas.. I'm angry and gutted."

Tootsies had plans to open branches in Wolverhampton and Birmingham but they are now believed to have been scrapped.Questions have been raised in recent months over the beauty craze which sees customers place their feet in tanks of water containing dozens of Turkish Garra Rufa fish.

While the pampering carries a "very low" risk for healthy clients, those with conditions including diabetes and psoriasis have now been advised against the indulgence by the The Health Protection Agency.

Bosses at the Mansfield-based head office were unavailable for comment .

Sharon O'Mara at Tootsies before the tanks were removed

RELIEF OVER DRUG HAUNT

THE demolition of a fire-ravaged leather factory in Walsall town centre will give residents peace of mind as the building was being used as a drugs den, it was claimed today.

Councillors said they were sad to see the Jabez Cliff & Co factory go but that the site was a danger.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said the 1870 building had to come down as it was unsafe following a devastating fire in August.

Meanwhile, St Matthews councillor Mohammed

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Arif said the building was being used as a haunt for drug dealers and addicts.

Workers and a demolition claw have now moved on to the site in Lower Forster Street. The work is due to last for 10 weeks.

Councillor Arif said: "It has been targeted by a number of drug dealers recently. From that point of view, it is a good thing. It will put people's minds at rest to know there is no one inside the derelict building."

Councilor Bird added: "It's a sad day but the building was in a very dangerous condition and at risk of imminent collapse.

"We understand this is likely to take 10 weeks to complete. A start date is being finalised and we are working closely with the owner so the work can be finished and Lower Forster Street reopened."

Pharmacy

The fire on August 15, which police are not treating as arson, gutted the historic building, which has stood empty since the firm relocated to Aldridge in 2009.

Borough conservationist Peter Ruston wanted some parts of the factory to remain.The 54-year-old of Tantarra Street, Chuckery, said: "These old tannery's are very thin on the ground and very rare now. "The facade should be incorporated in the health centre plans as we want to see our history preserved."

A new £3 million health centre is set to be built at the site including two doctors' surgeries, a pharmacy and an opticians.

Bricks piled up to be taken away and reused as demolition of fire-ravaged Jabez Cliff & Co continues

Angels of mercy aid injured man

By Charlotte Lilley

FIVE nurses who came to the aid of a 90-year-old Walsall man have been praised by his worried wife.

Mary Ashley's husband fell down three steps outside Marks & Spencer's last Friday at 11.30am after losing his balance.

Mr Ashley sustained deep cuts to his forehead, fingers, wrist, knees and elbows, and was obviously in shock. Five nurses, one with her young son came to his immediate aid.

Mrs Ashley said: "One lady expecting a baby took her white coat off to keep my blooded husband warm. The young boy also took his jacket and placed it over my husband's chest.

"Another lady knelt cradling my husband's head, pressing paper tissue on his forehead."

Mrs Ashley said she'd like to thank the nurses and the young boy.

Concern as heritage town funding trimmed

SCALING back a long-awaited heritage project to repair historic buildings in Willenhall by £1 million has been described as a "terrible shame".

The project is part of a council scheme to help regenerate the town centre with the help of lottery cash.

Monitor

The revamp has already been delayed by three years and was originally estimated at £2 million.

The Heritage Lottery Fund has offered £500,000 to help fix roofs and chimneys at old shops and other properties in the town.

But disappointed councillors have been told the council is only able to put a further £500,000 towards the scheme, taking the total available to £1m.

Councillor Carl Creaney, of Willenhall South ward, said he was being stopped in the streets by residents and traders who have demanded to know why the work had not started.

"It is a terrible shame that the money has been reduced," he said.

"It has been brought about by the economic conditions. If we had got the original amount that the refurbishment required then it would have gone a long way towards rejuvenating the town.

"However, to be fair, £1m is better than nothing."

Councillor Sean Coughlan, of Willenhall South ward, who heads a town hall panel set up to monitor the borough's heritage projects, said there was enough in the pot to help refurbish nine properties.

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Read all about it with author

AN AUTHOR who has penned more than 100 books dropped by a secondary school in Walsall to chat to pupils.

John Townsend visited Aldridge School as part of its annual Book Week celebrations.

Mr Townsend gave Year 7 at the Tynings Lane school an insight into the world of writing and publishing.

Harbans Kaur, school librarian, said it had been a very beneficial visit and the children had very much enjoyed the experience.

"The pupils have been inspired by John Townsend's visit and have enjoyed Book Week very much," she said.

Organised

"Book Week is one of the ways in which Year 7 pupils are integrated into school life and encouraged to read."

Mr Townsend is a writer of children's fiction and non-fiction.

He has written more than 100 books, covering a range of subjects including history, geography, science, medicine, crime, natural history.

Inspired by his books, Aldridge students have now created their own artworks and penned their own stories.

Over the course of the term, staff have organised a number of book-related competitions.

Writer John Townsend with pupils at Aldridge School

Arboretum arson last straw for plastic bin

ALL litter bins at Walsall Arboretum are to be replaced with metal ones to stop them being destroyed by vandals.

Arsonists torched three plastic bins at the park, leaving taxpayers with a bill of £60 – and also set fire to wooden pallets last week.

Councillor Anthony Harris, Walsall Council's cabinet member for leisure and culture, said: "This is yet again another mindless act of vandalism. How anyone can get a kick out of this beggars belief."

"We're looking to replace the three bins with one in the short term. Eventually, all plastic bins within the Arboretum will be replaced with metal bins."

The plastic bins, which were dotted along a route from the entrance in Arboretum Road to the lido, melted in the arson attack, in which a pile of pallets was also set alight. It costs £20 to replace each bin.

Behaviour

Police patrols have now been stepped up at the site following a spate of crimes in the past few months, including theft and vandalism.

Officers are conducting the investigation at the same time as carrying out high-visibility patrols in the park.

Colleagues in plain clothes are also keeping watch, alongside park rangers

Sgt Bob Harris, of Walsall police said: "People come to enjoy the parkland, there is also a children's play area, football pitch and newly-built skate park. We need to ensure that their day isn't blighted by anti-social behaviour and crime."

Anyone with information on any of the crimes can call West Midlands Police on 0345 113 5000.

Ban for cruel owner of dog left to starve

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A WALSALL mother whose pet was close to death following "prolonged starvation" has been banned from keeping dogs for three years and given a community sentence.

Simone Scott, aged 21, allowed her Staffordshire bull terrier to become dehydrated and underweight. The dog was later found collapsed in a neighbour's garden in Willenhall.

Walsall magistrates ordered Scott to carry out 160 hours of unpaid work and pay RSPCA costs of £1,200. District Judge Michael Morris granted a deprivation order to keep the pet out of her possession. Now renamed Annie the animal is in the care of the RSPCA, which is seeking a new owner.

Guilty plea – Simone Scott

Scott admitted two counts of failing to ensure the welfare of an animal earlier this week. She originally denied the charges but changed her plea ahead of the trial last week.

The court was told that the mother of two was the owner of the dog and was staying with family in Barcroft, Willenhall, in March this year.

Concerns were raised by neighbours who had seen the pet in a poor condition, and it was then found collapsed and looking thin.

Dehydrated

The pet, believed to be nine months old at the time, was taken to a vet's where she was described as being in a emaciated condition and close to death.

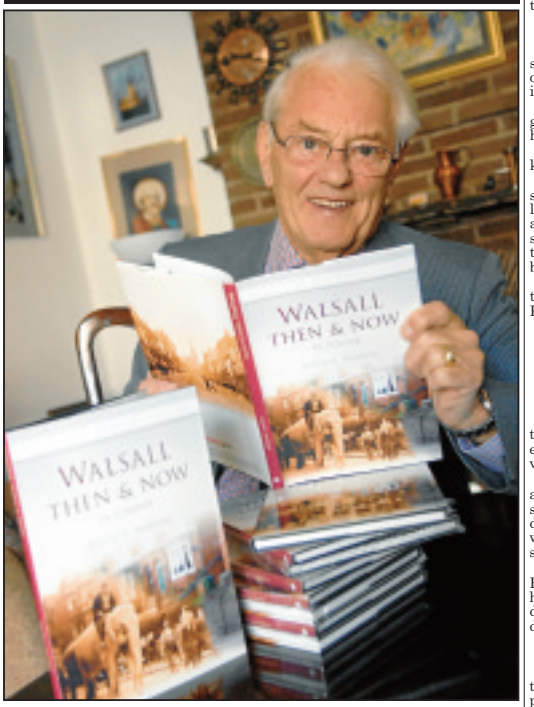
Her body temperature was found to be low, she was dehydrated, and all food had to be liquidised. She was put on a drip and eventually recovered.

Mohammed Ikram, defending, said it was a case of neglect rather than harm and Scott was remorseful.

Sentencing Scott, now of Gower Street, All Saints, Wolverhampton, Mr Morris said it was a "serious offence."

Speaking after the case RSPCA inspector Rob Crutchley said: "The vet said she would have been have been dead in the next few hours if we hadn't collected her."

Author chronicles changes



Author David Vodden compares and contrasts the old and new in Walsall

WALSALL'S past and present has been archived in a new book out this week which showcases just how much the face of the town has changed.

David Vodden has compiled the book, entitled Walsall Then and Now, by capturing current town landmarks in dozens of photographs and putting them alongside old photos of the same places taken as long ago as 1900.

St Matthew's Church, High Street, Leicester Square, St Paul's bus station, the Savoy cinema and the general hospital are all shown in their current and former guises in the book.

More than 40 buildings, streets and landmarks have been compared by Mr Vodden, who became head of history at West Midlands College, Walsall, in 1970 and is a member of the Black Country Society.

Mr Vodden, of Prince's Avenue, Walsall, writes in the introduction: "Collecting the evidence has been most enjoyable and I hope it will provide hours of pleasure and interest for the reader."

Walsall Then and Now is published by The History Press, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, GL5 2QG.

Judge rejects knife raider's prison appeal

A MASKED raider who terrorised a Walsall shopkeeper in a knife attack puncturing his lung in a desperate struggle, has failed in his bid to reduce his 12-year jail term.

Mark William Evans, 26, held a knife to the neck of Harinder Dhadli's wife at Kendrick News, in Moxley, and demanded cash, London's Court of Appeal heard.

Mr Dhadli tackled the thug and a struggle ensued. He ripped off the raider's maskand was then stabbed repeatedly.

Regular

Before the attacker fled, Mr Dhadli recognised him as regular customer Evans, of Charnwood Close, Moxley.

The court heard Mr Dhadli was so traumatised by the attack in June 2009 he could not return to work at his shop.

Evans was jailed for 12 years in December 2009 for attempted robbery and inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent.

His appeal that the sentence was "excessive" was rejected by Mr Justice Supperstone.

Music the goal with Saddlers

A YOUTH charity is offering youngsters in Walsall the chance to join free courses in music or football to help them into work or training.

The Prince's Trust said nearly one in five young people in the town are struggling to find a job. The trust is now looking for 16 to 18-year-olds to take part in its Get Started With Football and Get Started With Music programmes from November.

They provide the opportunity to work with Walsall FC for a coaching qualification. Details from neil.parker@princes-trust.org.uk or 0121 772 9241.

Open mic at art gallery

CREATIVE youngsters in Walsall can attend an open mic session at the the New Art Gallery this Saturday.

Budding young performers are welcome at the gallery's Costa Coffee branch from 6pm-9pm, with £20 vouchers on offer to those who rap or sing a tune about any housing issue.

The event is aimed at people between the ages of 13 and 19. Entry costs £1 ,with a free coffee included.

Walsall Council cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Rachel Andrew, said: "This is the fourth event of its kind and is back by popular demand. There is certainly a lot of talent among young people in Walsall

"The housing team is interested in finding out how our young people feel about housing in the borough"

Details from Georgie Abbott on 01922 723926.

Workers' £1,250 boost to hospice

WALSALL'S St Giles Hospice has been given £1,250 by staff at an energy company. The cash was given to SSE's contracting team at the energy giant's depot in Green Lane, Walsall, as a reward for their excellent safety performance over the past year.

Walsall retail manager John Jenkinson said: "Everyone here is thrilled to be receiving this award and more importantly, that we are able to donate the funds to such a worthwhile cause.

"The team is delighted to support a charity doing fantastic work which touches the hearts of the community."

Patrols to deter cemetery attacks

A MOBILE patrol team is being used to monitor cemeteries across Walsall to ensure they are not a target for vandals.

Bentley Cemetery was hit by an arson attack earlier this year andWalsall Council's on-site mess room was destroyed.Maintenance equipment was also stolen and council chiefs are still assessing the total cost.

It is one of a number of attacks in the Black Country where gravestones have been smashed, memorials daubed with graffiti and floral tributes damaged..

Secured

But bosses say attacks are rare in the borough and have measures in place to minimise incidents.

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said: "Vandalism at cemeteries and crematorium premises is thankfully rare in Walsall. Our cemeteries are secured at dusk and a mobile patrol team monitors them during daylight hours."

School helps heroes

MONEY raised from a Walsall school fete has been counted up and handed over to three charities, including Help for Heroes.

The event at Shelfield Community Academy in Broad Way raised £2,200.

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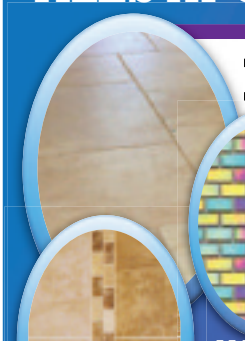

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Mrs Christmas shows her face

FATHER Christmas will be arriving at a grotto in Walsall's Victorian Arcade next month.

To celebrate, centre bosses have launched a competition aimed at the town's under 10s.

Youngsters can draw a picture of what they think Mrs Christmas looks like. The winner will receive their own Christmas pack, together with a £100 cheque for their school's art department.

DARREN Griffiths, of centre managers GBR Phoenix Beard, said: "The Father Christmas Grotto at the centre has always been one of the highlights in the calendar.

Display

"This year, there will be even more reason for families to come along because as well as picking out the winning picture, Father Christmas has agreed to display a selection of the best runners up in his Grotto area at the centre."

Drawings should be posted by November 4, to Caroline Barraclough, Victorian Arcade Shopping Centre, c/o PMW Communications, Stane Court, Stane Street, Billingshurst, West Sussex, RH14 9HP.

The winning entry will be unveiled at Santa's Grotto in the centre on November 19.

Youngsters targeting smokers

YOUNGSTERS at Walsall schools have been getting to grips with some gruesome models to help spread the no smoking message.

Teenagers at four secondary schools have taken delivery of jars of tar, fatty artery models and other aids to help them spread the word against smoking.

The Midcounties Co-operative has funded the resources for pupils at Streetly School, Brownhills School, Darlaston's Grace Academy and St Francis of Assisi Catholic Technology College in Aldridge.

Encourage

It has sponsored a three-year programme by The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation to enable young people to become advocates against smoking.

They were shown jars containing 200ml of sticky brown tar to show what's taken into the lungs by a 10-a-day smoker in a year..

Claire Jarvis, youth project worker with the foundation, said: "We have 12 key students on this project in Walsall schools and they have engaged with 950 students to date to give them the facts about smoking and encourage them not to take up the habit."

Centralise museums under one roof - plea

WALSALL'S museums, history centre and archives could be brought under one roof.

Plans for a heritage centre were first mooted in 2004, but no suitable location was ever found. Council chiefs said last week that bringing the services under one roof in Walsall remained an aim, dependent on finding a suitable site and securing funding.

A budget consultation report revealed the move could help the cash-strapped council save money.

Discussing what services could look like in three years' time, it says: "Further savings and efficiencies could be achieved by bringing museums and archives together in a heritage centre for Walsall at a single location."

Leisure chief Councillor Anthony Harris said the scheme would be a positive move for the townsfolk of Walsall.

"It is our ambition to co-locate our museums, the local history centre and archives into one building in Walsall but it is dependent on whether a suitable location can be found and appropriate funding can be secured," he said.

Brilliant

"We're currently in the middle of a feasibility study to see whether this is possible. We believe that this would create a fascinating and exciting service, where visitors will be able to research their family tree, view old photographs and maps and consider artefacts and costumes from Walsall's rich history, all under one roof."

Walsall's Local History Centre is currently in Essex Street, Leamore, a mile from the town centre.

Labour's Councillor Dennis Anson was among those pushing for services together under one roof.

Mother lied to qualify for £23k benefit

A WALSALL mother of three was overpaid more than £23,000 in benefits after she failed to reveal she had got married, a court heard.

Joanne Reeves lied to benefits staff, and the deception continued until they confronted her with a copy of her marriage certificate and other documents showing she was no longer a single mother.

Reeves, 28, of Lowe Avenue, Rough Hay, Darlaston admitted four counts of failing to notify of a change in circumstances.

Sarah Fahy, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court last week that Reeves, nee Partridge, had correctly claimed income support from the Department for Work and Pensions, and council tax and housing benefits from Walsall Council when she was single in 2003.

Address

But she failed to inform the authorities when her circumstances changed. She said Reeves had been overpaid by £23,395 between November 2005 and September last year.

"Claiming as a single parent in 2003 she said she had children by Mr Reeves. Essentially after the birth of each child she claimed that he didn't want to know. She said he contributed to some bills, sometimes used her address for his post, but she didn't know where he lived."

Ms Fahy added that the couple married on September 7, 2009, and the Crown accepted that her actions had not been fraudulent at the outset.

Rob Perry, defending, said his client had repaid £5,000 from her husband's bank account.

He added that Reeves' children were now aged 10, seven and three.

Judge Amjad Nawaz jailed Reeves for four months, suspended for 18 months, and ordered her to carry out 100 hours unpaid work in the community.

Opticians raise £500

MORE than £500 was raised when staff at Specsavers in High Street, Brownhills, Walsall, held a 1940s-style event in aid of Help for Heroes.

Savings theft victim tells of 'devastation'

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A PENSIONER awaiting a major cancer operation has told of his "devastation" at having his entire £5,000 savings stolen by a pair of thieves in a Walsall town centre pub. Police have released a CCTV image of two people they want to question.

Fredrick Hathaway, of Pleck, who has throat cancer, had taken out the last of his savings from the bank in order to have a knees-up for his 78th birthday, pay bills and visit his caravan in Gloucestershire.

When he went to meet friends at Yates's, in Leicester Street, a woman distracted him while a man snatched his bag with the £5,000 in it. The widower went ahead with a scaled-down party, but said he was still shocked at the loss of his savings.

CCTV of the suspects

At the time he thought he was going to have an operation on his throat towards the end of this month, he explained, and so he had brought forward his birthday party "because it will probably be my last one".

Doctors have since said the operation might be too hard for his heart and lungs to handle, so he is to have four weeks' radiotherapy.The retired painter and decorator said: "I had just been to the bank and I went straight into the bar, got a pint and sat down.

"A woman tapped on my shoulder and said I had dropped some money, as there were four or five £20 notes on the floor. I bent down to pick it up and when I turned round there was another bag on the chair where my bag had been. I didn't even see the man.

"It's so horrible I just can't bear to think about it. I was furious."

Appeal

His family, including his brother, Bill, aged 74, of Mossley, and sister Kath, 82, of Beechdale, held a small party to celebrate his birthday.

Mr Hathaway's wife of 39 years, Lilian, died in 2008 of heart failure.

Anyone with any information about the theft, which happened at about 11.10am on Wednesday, October 12, is asked to contact police on 0345 113 5000.

The woman is white, and had her long brown hair in a pony ail. She was wearing a white jacket, blue jeans and sunglasses.

The man is in his late 20s or early 30s, 5ft 10in to 6ft, and smartly dressed in a suit and red tie. He was wearing a light cap, which he threw away, revealing a bald head.

Northgate quits town

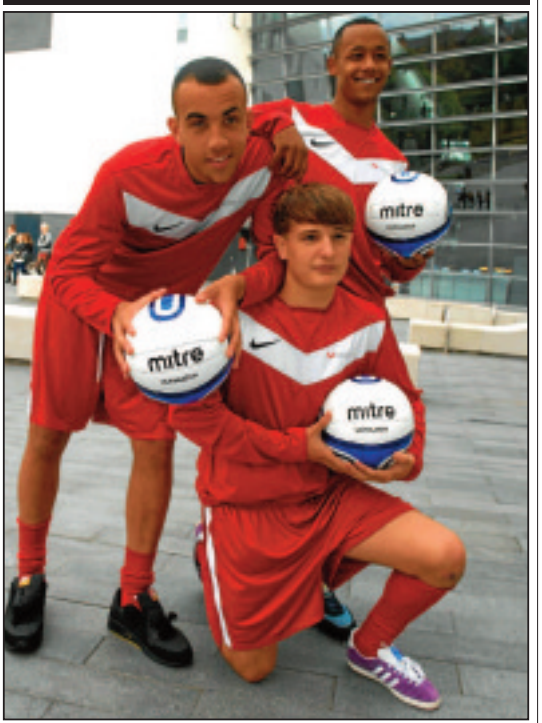
A VEHICLE hire company is quitting Willenhall to relocate to Cannock in a multi-million pound move.

Northgate Vehicle Hire, which currently employs 20-25 people at The Crescent, switches to a new £2.5 million site in Walkmill Lane, Bridgtown, at the end of the month

The company has previously had depots in the area but never enough space to base its headquarters, which are still under construction.

It will share the 5.75 acre site with Van Monster.

Football talents wow scouts



Walsall College's Calum Cooper, left, Bradley Wooldridge and Reece Cotterill

THREE talented young footballers from Walsall College showed off their silky skills, bagging places on the West Midlands Colleges football team.

Bradley Wooldridge, of Bloxwich, and Calum Cooper and Reece Cotterill, both of Wolverhampton, impressed scouts at a regional trial as 80 budding players competed for just 16 places.

The trio will now take part in matches against all other regions across England.

They will also go on to the next stage of trials next month to compete for a place in the English Colleges football team.

Mark Howard, football academy co-ordinator at Walsall College, said: "W got the biggest representation of all the colleges in the squad and we are very proud of our students."

Reece, Bradley and Calum play at the college's football development centre, which gives talented youngsters the chance to continue with their education while honing their skills.

Bradley said he was "really excited" to be selected for the team.

Away fans worst in ejection league

JUST five of the 41 fans ejected from Walsall FC's Banks's Stadium last season were home supporters, according to a new report.

The majority of offences were for smoking inside the ground, which is now banned.

The report was prepared by the Walsall FC stadium safety group for the council's licensing and safety committee as part of the annual review of safety arrangements at the ground.

The total of ejections in 2010-11 was 41, compared with 67 the season before and 119 the previous year.

The report states: "Despite signs at every entrance and inside the ground, the national smoking ban is still being ignored some supporters who go to great lengths to smoke inside the ground. It is against ground regulations and against the law."

Pay-by-phone parking on street planned

MOTORISTS could soon pay their on-street parking charges in Walsall by phone. Pay-by-phone is already being introduced in town centre car parks to save drivers searching for cash.

The system is due to begin in the coming months, but council chiefs are now also looking at extending it to street parking bays.

It follows the introduction of controversial on-street fees earlier this year.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said: "Motorists have told us they would find it more convenient if a system where they could pay for parking by phone was brought in, and we're looking at introducing the scheme by April 2012.

"Motorists will need to pre-register with the company that provides the service and then call a number when they wish to park.

"This will operate at council-run car parks and could be rolled out to on-street parking at a later date."

Paying to park by phone has been successful in London and Birmingham. Drivers call an automated service to register their details or text a number, which parking attendants can check with a hand-held device.

Single lane traffic

THE A4091 Walsall Road dual carriageway from the town to West Bromwich becomes single lane from this week for the next eight months, and some overnight closures are also planned. Concrete structures which carry the M6 over the A4091 need attention.

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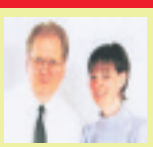

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Cash carrot to aid developers

STALLED house building projects in Walsall have attracted a £900,000 boost from the Government to finish them

The council is in line for a homes' bonus grant, which will be distributed by way of loans to construction firms struggling in the tough economic conditions.

Demonstrate

Developers are being urged to apply for a loan of up to £175,000 by November 11.

They can use it for projects which have either stalled since construction started or are under way.The council said it was among a handful of UK town halls to use the funding in this manner.

Cabinet member for regeneration Councillor Adrian Andrew said the new homes bonus will help to ensure the message gets across that Walsall is open for business.

"This is another example of this council actively supporting economic growth. In these difficult times we must ensure that finance can achieve as much as possible."

Successful bidders must demonstrate that their projects would be kick-started with the cash, are value for money and have planning permission.

Thieves target unlocked cars

BRIEFCASES, sat navs and iPods have been stolen in a spate of thefts from cars in Aldridge.

Thieves targeted four cars in the space of just a few hours. They struck in Weston Crescent, Leighswood Avenue, Portland Road and Malvern Drive.

Abandoned

Sgt Craig Newey, from Walsall police station, said: "We are appealing to car owners to be extra vigilant. "It appears that opportunist thieves may have been trying car door handles during the night and have searched and stolen items from vehicles that were left unlocked.

"The majority of car crime can be prevented simply by ensuring your vehicle is secure and that any valuable items are removed.

"Some of the stolen items were recovered after being abandoned in Orchard Road, Brownhills."

The thefts took place overnight last Tuesday into Wednesday morning, October 18-19. In all cases, the drivers had left their cars unlocked.

Police said investigations were continuing.

Season of bonfires to start with bang

BLOXWICH will be a riot of colour this weekend as Walsall borough's first bonfire and firework display gets under way.

The bonfire at King George V Playing Fields will be lit at 7pm this Saturday, October 29, with fireworks from 8pm-8.20pm.

Hundreds of visitors are expected at the bonfires organised by Walsall Council's parks team every year.

John Millard, senior park ranger, said: "We're counting down to the first of this year's three bonfire events and are looking forward to another huge turnout.

"Supervised bonfires are the safest option for all and we're very proud of our colourful firework displays which are well praised every time we stage them."

Attract

Food is available at the bonfire event along with children's rides.Entry is £3 for adults, £1 for children and free for under fives.

For safety reasons, visitors are not allowed to bring their own fireworks or sparklers. No alcohol is allowed and under 14s must be accompanied by an adult.

The park rangers still need hundreds of wooden pallets to build the bonfires and are asking businesses, factories and supermarkets to rally round.

Mr Millard added: "Our bonfires are massive and take some building so any help is much appreciated.

"We have been well supported in previous years by businesses from all over Walsall, as well as slightly further afield, and we hope to attract the same level of support this year."

Anyone who is able to donate and deliver pallets is urged to contact Mr Millard on 07736 388409 or John Morris on 07736 388418.

Moreton magic still casts spell after 200 years

THERE was something irresistible about the little chap. He was lying, abandoned and forlorn, on the floor of the old John Harper foundry in Willenhall. At her home in Lower Penn, Wolverhampton, Nicola Davies tells the story: "I was the personnel officer for Duport Harper Foundries when we took over the John Harper foundry.

"When we closed it, along with other foundries, I made many visits. On my last visit with a director of the company, to check it out one last time before it was razed to the ground, I saw a little cast-iron statue just lying on a work bench. I just couldn't leave him there. I picked him up and brought him home where he has lived in my dining room ever since."

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Nicola had become part of a small but proud Black Country group, the owners of Moretons. The statuettes were made as doorstops or ornaments by foundrymen at John Harper & Co.

As the Chronicle reported on October 6, they were produced unofficially in quiet times, the men pouring molten metal into moulds of the figure.

The Blackcountryman magazine ran a feature on them which attracted a full explanation from a former Harper director, John D Harper. William Moreton was parson of Willenhall for nearly 50 riotous years from 1788. According to folklore, Parson Moreton was often so drunk that he had to be propped up against a headstone to conduct funerals in the churchyard.

As the memories of this notorious character lingered on, craftsmen decided to preserve him for posterity in little cast-iron models.

Mr Harper, a former director of the Willenhall ironfounders, John Harper & Co, is the proud owner of two Moretons and believes many more were made. But how many?

They are all just a few inches high and depicting the plump, priestly figure of the long-dead parson.

Mystery

Kathleen Carter, who runs Wood n Things antiques in Penn Road, Wolverhampton, says: "I bought the figure about 30 years ago from a lady in Goldthorn Hill. My Moreton is totally black with no sign of it ever having been coloured. I considered him to be an interesting little fellow."

Pat Evans, of Tettenhall, says: "It was my article in the Blackcountryman which prompted Mr Harper's response. Mine was seemingly made into a doorstop and is in need of a makeover."

Ron Grosvenor, of Willenhall, admits he didn't realise they were so rare or collectable. He says: "I have a Moreton statuette and it was standing on the bird table. My father-in-law worked for John Harper for years until it closed down in the '70s, and he brought two home."

Local historian Ned Williams was unaware of Moretons and doesn't know how he came to own one. I have often taken it to groups as a 'mystery' object but now the mystery is solved."

Steve Darby, in Coseley, cherishes the Moreton owned by his parents. He believes it belonged to his grandfather, Daniel Keay, an apprentice in the lab at Rubery Owen, Darlaston, who later became a foundry manager in Wolverhampton.

"My grandfather could've acquired his Moreton at any time during his early career as my mother remembers it when she was a child."

Ann James, of Castlecroft, Wolverhampton, inherited her painted Moreton 30 years ago from her uncle, John Bailey, paint manager at the Harper foundry in Willenhall.

"We're very fond of him. He has always been used as a doorstop."

In Stafford, Gerald Oakley treasures his Moreton.

"My father, Leonard, was the manager at John Harper's foundry during the Second World War," he says. We were the proud owners of 'The Vicar' and it still has pride of place in my home."

Ron Grosvenor, of Willenhall, didn't realise the rarity of his rusting Moreton

Proud owner Gerald Oakley, son of a John Harper foundry manager

Geoff Hill, of Halesowen, uses his Moreton as a book-stop

Antique shop owner Kathleen Carter, of Wolverhampton

Ann James, of Wolverhampton, with her Moreton heirloom

Roadworks ahead, motorists warned

WALSALL drivers are being warned to expect delays from next week when a temporary one-way system begins in Primley Avenue, Alumwell

The one-way system will be in place between 9.15am and 3.30pm on Mondays to Fridays for about four weeks of highway improvements from Monday, October 31.

Direction

Traffic will only be allowed to travel in a southerly direction from the A454 Wolverhampton Road towards Blay Avenue, where the roadworks end.

Drivers wishing to access Wolverhampton Road will be diverted through Blay Avenue and Alumwell Road. Access to nearby properties will be retained where possible.

Laundering charge

A MAN accused of money laundering appeared before Walsall magistrates and was bailed until November 17. Aytun Osman, aged 36, of Wensleydale Road, Great Barr is charged with concealing criminal property between September 2010 and August 2011, allegedly relating to the find of £21,000 in a deposit box.

Family anger as patient, 84, suffers mystery fracture

AN ELDERLY woman was sent home from Walsall Manor Hospital with a mystery fracture which went untreated for more than a week, it was claimed.

The family of Marjorie Aulton, aged 84, hit out at the standards of care the pensioner received while staying on Ward 15 in August and September.

Mrs Aulton's family were horrified to find her leg heavily bruised when she came home and it was discovered more than a week later her knee had been fractured while she was in hospital.

Mrs Aulton cannot walk or talk after a stroke 20 years ago and could not tell her family what had happened.

Hospital bosses have been unable to explain how she suffered the injury and have launched an investigation.

Apology

It is the second case of an elderly patient suffering an unexplained fracture in recent weeks after dementia sufferer 80-year-old patient Ada Pointon, from Bloxwich, fractured her arm.

Mrs Aulton was admitted on August 17 for treatment of gallstones, and granddaughter Katie Edwards said that during her three-week stay she developed sores, was unable to reach her drink or buzzer and that her saline drip was incorrectly fitted.

Ms Edwards, aged 26, said: "It has been abysmal. We have had no explanation about what happened. We put her in a professional environment and she came out 10 times worse. We are disappointed in Walsall Manor Hospital."

Paula Gardner, of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, said she could not discuss the care of Mrs Aulton due to patient confidentiality.

"An initial investigation was made into the concerns raised by the family and an apology for the lack of communication they received, with regard to the patient's condition, was offered.

"The trust takes the concerns of our patients, their families and their carers very seriously indeed and will continue the discussions with the family."

Marjorie Aulton and Katie Edwards, her granddaughter

Mixed-sex wards are banished to the past

A RECORD low number of patients are being forced to sleep on mixed-sex wards in the Black Country and Staffordshire.

Latest figures show efforts to eradicate what the Government has branded an "indignity" have been a 100 per cent success at Walsall Manor and other hospitals.

The fact that there were just 11 breaches in the region last month is seen as a key victory for the Department of Health, which began imposing fines on hospitals breaching the rules from April this year.

Only Stafford Hospital and Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital flouted the rules last month. Stafford had 10 patients sleeping in mixed-sex wards in September, and New Cross one.

Eliminate

Stafford Hospital bosses have pledged to carry out work on parts of its hospital to try to eliminate the problem.

Throughout the West Midlands, 13 major hospitals had no breaches at all including Walsall Manor, Russells Hall, at Dudley, and Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell Hospital.

Sandwell Hospital invested £3 million to refurbish wards to avoid the need for mixed-sex wards. The trust has also spent £1.4m to staff the extra wards and has recruited 37 new nurses.

The low numbers have been hailed as a major success by the Department of Health after months of concerted effort by hospitals.

Since April 2011 the number of reported breaches in the West Midlands has fallen by 82 per cent. There were 236 reported breaches in April 2011, compared with 42 in the entire region in September – a drop of 194.

Across England there were 11,802 patients staying in mixed-sex accommodation last December. The figure had plummeted to 1,079 by September 2011.

New life for hotel which shut down

A WALSALL hotel that shut suddenly leaving 50 people out of work is to reopen in January.

Kew Green Hotels has taken over the former Friendly Lodge, in Wolverhampton Road West, Bentley.

It will reopen as the Holiday Inn Walsall M6 Jct10, creating around 50 new jobs and featuring 156 refurbished bedrooms, 10 conference rooms, pool, sauna, jacuzzi and fitness room.

Refurbishment work is being carried out now and will be completed in December ahead of its opening in January 2012.

Paul Johnson, of Kew Green Hotels, said: "We are investing significantly in the refurbishment of the hotel. It is being transformed into a stylish destination, ideally located for business and leisure travellers.

Liquidation

"This refurbishment will help firmly position Kew Green as a force in the business and leisure sector, placing the hotel firmly on the Walsall map."

The hotel was formerly known as The Compass Hotel and before that, the Friendly Lodge.

The Compass Hotel closed in August 2009 after its owners, Walsall Operations Ltd, went into liquidation.

It closed suddenly, leaving staff out of work and wedding plans in tatters.

Concerts in memory of tragic mum Trudy

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

TWO concerts to raise funds for research into brain tumours will be held next week to launch a group set up following the death of a 35-year-old mother, a former Miss Walsall.

Trudy's Trust has been established in memory of Trudy Shingler, who died from a brain tumour in February. The concerts at Aston Wood Golf Club, near Sutton Coldfield, will aid the Brain Tumour Research charity. The forensic scientist lived with husband Lea and son Phoenix, three, in Burton upon Trent.

Stunned at the tragedy of losing a much loved wife, daughter, sister and mother just four months after being diagnosed, her family has been inspired to set up Trudy's Trust to raise funds for research into brain tumours.

Brain tumour victim Trudy Shingler with husband Lea and son Phoenix

Trudy's father, Mark Leeson, of Rugeley, said: "We wanted to put something back so that other people don't have to suffer like Trudy did and, as a result, the rest of her family.

"Brain tumours are so savage and kill more children and people under the age of 40 than any other cancer. If it had been any other cancer, at least we could have talked to Trudy in the weeks before she died, but the tumour took away her ability to communicate."

Cabaret

He said when Trudy, a former Aldridge Community School pupil, fell ill, they found how little was known about brain tumours and how much research was needed.

Only around one per cent of all cancer research currently looks into tumours.

Mr Leeson, a special needs teacher at Moreton School, Wolverhampton, is a part-time musician and played piano at Aston Wood Golf Club for 10 years.

The club is providing the venue for the concerts on November 5 and 6, free of charge. The line-up of acts includes West End singer Shonagh Daly and cabaret actress Cat Davies

Tickets are £25 and can be obtained by calling 0121 580 8484.

True grit for wintry streets

Walsall Council acting group leader Marion Parry takes delivery of the winter grit supply at a Tarmac depot in Apex Drive, Pelsall Road, Brownhills

STOCKPILES of grit are accumulating in Walsall ahead of the anticipated severe weather this winter.

More than 3,500 tons of grit are being piled high in a newly-built barn off Apex Drive in Brownhills in preparation.

Monitored

A host of gritters tested out new routes in Walsall to make sure everyone was clear on their role in keeping roads safe and useable.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird said: "Being able to drive in extreme conditions is important for keeping Walsall going. "We know that. We're prepared, we have a plan in place to make sure we are in the best position possible when winter bites."

He said gritters went out 41 times last year, spreading more than 2,000 tons of grit across the streets of the borough.Weather is monitored by Walsall Council engineers around the clock with a combination of forecasts and road sensors.

Decisions will then be taken to send out gritters with seven vehicles equipped to treat the roads. Six hand-spreaders are also available for town centre use.

Flats for yuppies near town centre

A BUILDING near Walsall town centre is to be extended to create two flats and two retail units under plans lodged with the council.

A developer has applied for planning permission to transform the building currently housing the Back Care & Acupuncture Clinic, in Bate Street.

The proposal would mean constructing a second storey to accommodate two one-bedroom apartments aimed at young professionals.

Dan Jones, of HG Designs, said in the proposal documents that the clinic would lose 129 sq ft and the flats above would be privately rented separately to the business.

Piano key to good schools, says MP

ONE in nine primary schools do not have a piano, Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz told ministers

Ms Vaz pointed to findings by the Institute of Education when challenging Education Secretary Michael Gove in the Commons last week.

She demanded that all primary schools have a music co-ordinator and are equipped with a piano.

"Plato's theory of education said that musical training was one of the most important instruments in education," said the Labour MP.

Mr Gove said his department would shortly be publishing a national plan to reform music education.

Gas holder ladders go

LADDERS at two empty disused gas holders next to the M6 in Walsall are being removed to prevent intruders from climbing them.

The James Bridge Gas Holders are just 13 yards from the northbound carriageway where it passes above Darlaston Road, in Pleck, and are seen by the thousands of drivers on the motorway every day.

Wine merchant revives Oddbins

WINE merchant Oddbins is returning to the high street after Walsall multi-millionaire Raj Chatha snapped up the struggling business.

Mr Chatha, who owns Whittall's Wine Merchants, in Pleck, bought 37 Oddbins stores for an undisclosed sum after the chain went into administration with debts of £8.5million.

Oddbins' Anthony Murray-Watkins said: "The Midlands is a key area for the company to expand into. If the right location comes up at the right price, the willingness and money required to do that is there."

Blankets cold-shouldered

SAFETY officers from Walsall Council failed 68 of the 241 electric blankets they tested during a crackdown.

Some of the electric blankets taken to the free testing event were more than 30 years old, council officers said.

A week of free tests were carried out earlier this month in a bid to keep people safe, particularly the old and vulnerable. People were invited to take their electric blankets along to be tested, as the colder weather sets in.

Last year, 316 blankets were safety tested and 95 were condemned as unsafe and removed from use.

In the 12 years the Walsall Council campaign has been running, 1,600 blankets have been removed from homes after being found to be unsafe.

Electric blankets should be serviced every three years.

Gift fair at hotel

JEWELLERY, cosmetics and handbags will be on offer at a gift fair at the County Hotel, Birmingham Road, to raise money for Walsall Heart Care cardiac rehabilitation unit.

Doors open at 7pm on Wednesday, November 9, admission £1. Details are available on 01922 725050.

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Lout admits looting during street riots

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A RIOTER from Walsall who went home with jewellery from a ransacked shop when violence flared in Wolverhampton, has admitted handling stolen goods.

Michael Frimpong said he was handed a pair of gold earrings and a 9ct belcher chain taken from E.V. Beckett in Queen Street during the vandalism and looting on August 9.

The items, worth more than £200 in total, were taken from a window display during the riots, which left store owner Eric Beckett facing £40,000 in lost stock and damage.

City magistrates heard last Friday 20-year old Frimpong had been handed the goods by another man as he was running from police.

Frimpong, whose address was given as Brinsford Young Offenders Institution but is believed to have lived in Walsall, pleaded guilty to a single count of handling stolen goods.

Arrested

He has already admitted a separate charge of violent disorder during the riots at an earlier hearing and will be sentenced for both crimes on November 8 at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Jane Yeomans, prosecuting, said Frimpong had come into Wolverhampton from Walsall by bus between 4pm and 5pm.

"As he ran from police an Asian man handed him the jewellery and said, 'take this'. He then took the bus back to Walsall, where he was arrested."

Ravi Dev, defending, said Frimpong had pleaded guilty at the earliest opportunity and had "co-operated fully" with police.

Magistrate Alison Felce said: "We'll be committing you to crown court for sentence.

"It makes sense that it goes to the same date as the other matter."

Frimpong was remanded in custody. He was arrested after police identified him from newspaper pictures.

Michael Frimpong, in blue jeans and black hoodie, squares up to police

Frimpong, circled, taking part in the disorder in Wolverhampton on August 9

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OAP luncheon club cancelled as cables cut

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

VANDALS have destroyed power cables at a community charity in Willenhall, leaving a question mark over its future. Willenhall School of Hope, in Stafford Street, has been repeatedly attacked in recent months.

The latest incident has left the group without electricity for four weeks, forcing it to halt a popular luncheon club for pensioners and others in the community. Repairs are expected to cost more than £1,000 for the group, which is based in an outbuilding at the former school site.

Terry Braithwaite, of Willenhall School of Hope, said: "Over the past few months, we have had increasing problems of theft and vandalism to the stage now we're not sure whether we can continue there.

"We have been without electricity for the last four weeks. We have try to do as much as we can without it.

"Some things like the luncheon club have had to stop as we don't even have running water. We tried to carry on, but we had to cancel it last week. It was used by 30 to 45 people."

Mr Braithwaite added: "We're trying to provide a service in the community and that's constantly being ruined by vandalism.

Terry Braithwaite, left, and trustee Charles Morris outside the Willenhall School of Hope

Literacy

"A lot of people rely on our services."

The community group is based in an outbuilding at the former Little London School, which closed in 2007.

The main school building has also been almost completely stripped of metal.

Willenhall School of Hope is run largely by volunteers and provides reading and literacy groups, a film club and luncheon club.

Mr Braithwaite is keen to hear of any suggested new venues via email on school ofhope@btinternet.com.

Battle plan to control knotweed

TREATMENT is continuing on patches of land at a Walsall allotments affected by a nuisance plant that could cost thousands of pounds to control.

Japanese knotweed was spotted near plots in Lane Avenue, Reedswood, and the borough council has been applying herbicide to tackle it.

If left unchecked it spreads quickly killing off native species, and can even damage building foundations.

Growing

Walsall Council's head of green spaces, Graham Hood, said: "The council has continued to monitor the problem and has applied a number of herbicide applications since spring this year.

"We've seen an acceptable degree of control along the Moorside Gardens boundary

"But it will take a number of seasons for the problem to be completed eradicated from that area.

"Officers will continue with the programme in the next growing season."

Church plea over parking

A WALSALL church is re-surface its car park with asphalt to provide more spaces under plans submitted to the council.

St Martin's Church, in Daffodil Road, Park Hall, has applied for permission to carry out the work to create an extra 19 regular spaces and one extra disabled space, and install lighting. The work, if approved, will give the church a total of 42 spaces.

Leather gift workshop

TOWNSFOLK can turn a hand to making jewellery for themselves or as a gift during a workshop at Walsall Leather Museum.

Jolene Smith has run a number of successful workshops for adults and children at the Littleton Street venue and will return on Saturday, November 5.

The workshop is scheduled to run from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

To inquire about places, call 01922 721153.

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Library booked in to be moved

WALSALL Wood Library is the first to be earmarked for relocation under proposals to shake up the service in the borough.

Oak Park Leisure Centre, in Lichfield Road, could be its new home.

Sue Grainger, head of libraries, heritage and arts at Walsall Council, said: "Discussions are at a very early stage and it's just one of a number of options being considered.

Computers

The borough's 16 libraries are all being scrutinised as part of a council review to save £1.3 million over three years.

No libraries will be closed, but some may relocate within their communities.

A review of opening hours, introduction of cafes and an adequate number of computers were some of the things people said they would like to see as a result of the consultation.

A report of the findings is available to view or download at www.walsall.gov.uk/library_consultation_2011.

How Albert earned a crust in pork pie van

EVEN in today's world of stretch limos and monster trucks, Walsall driver Albert Ward's odd van could still turn heads.

In the 1950s, his employers in Bilston, J E Downs Ham & Bacon Curers, had a novel idea to promote their business – delivering goods in a pie-shaped van complete with pastry crust detail. Trundling along the busy roads of Birmingham or the country lanes of Seisdon, it was Albert's job to get pork pies wherever they needed to be.

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

But, as the 79-year-old great-grandfather recalls today, handling the unusual vehicle was sometimes easier said than done.

The bizarre looking pork pie van in which Albert Ward used to make his deliveries

"I absolutely loved driving it," said Mr Ward, of Cherry Tree Avenue, Yew Tree, near Walsall.

"But there was an unfortunate moment once when it suffered a puncture in Seisdon. Because of the weight of the top, it sat quite low off the ground and I couldn't get underneath to fix it. I had to wait ages."

Mr Ward worked for the Broad Street pie factory in Bilston between 1956 and 1959.

His delivery routes included regular trips to towns and villages across the Black Country, Shropshire and South Staffordshire to deliver, mainly to pubs and shops. There were also customers in places like Claverley, Seisdon, Bridgnorth and Kidderminster.

Children

"The owners thought it was a good idea to build a pie on the back of the lorry. It was made from plaster of Paris. They did it for a novelty factor, I think, but it seemed to work," the former Holyhead Secondary School pupil remembers.

"There were two curved shaped doors at the rear of it and when you opened them there were racks for the trays of pies inside.

"I used to have to drive it to Lewis's department store in Birmingham every day for a 7.30am delivery to the staff canteen. I took the van all over the place, and it turned heads.

"Children used to laugh when they saw it, it looked like a giant toy. I enjoyed driving it. In the end I couldn't resist taking this photo. I'm glad I did because it fills me with happy memories."

Albert has been married to his wife Betty, also 79, for 52 years.

Retired van driver Albert Ward, aged 79

Deliveryman Albert marries Betty in 1959

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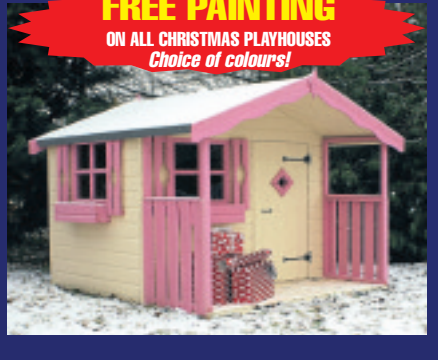

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thechronicle

New nurses focus on patients' dignity

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

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The improvements include weekly audits on the wards to ensure patients are being looked after the way they wish, checks on the curtain hooks and buzzers to ensure eveything is in place.

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Attitude

"We have now recruited these staff, and part of the process was focused on recruiting for attitude.

"These staff had a specifically-designed induction programme encouraging them to really focus on the dignity of patients."

Changes also include dietary likes and dislikes being recorded in patients' notes and – as of last month – snacks are available.

Patients are also being offered hand-washing before meals, and those nts who struggle with .fluids are now given special jugs with bright red lids.

Publican's parking fees move

A PUB in Walsall has introduced pay and display charges at its car park to stop drivers from clogging up spaces for hours on end.

The Cat and Fiddle, in Pheasey has imposed a £1 fee for three hours' parking on motorists who dump their vehicles on the site and go shopping elsewhere.

But people who use the Beacon Road pub are being reimbursed .

Monitor

Bosses say the decision follows spaces being filled up by people not visiting the pub.

There are shops close to the Cat and Fiddle and a bus connection to Birmingham city centre.

But people parking there now need to get tickets from a machine and put one on display in the vehicle.

Those who go into the pub will show the second ticket and get the charge reimbursed. A firm is employed to monitor the site.

United states of mind

Shelly Arkless, Walsall mindfulness practitioner

A STRESS practitioner in Bloxwich will lead a series of courses to help others overcome the trials and tribulations of everyday life.

USA-born Shelly Arkless, developer of The Mindful Road, will be joined by Richard Hawkins to lead the mindfulness stress based reduction (MBSR) programme at the Village Hotel, Tempus Drive.

Workshops will take place throughout November before the eight week MBSR course begins in January.

MBSR is a group programme teaching practices to alleviate suffering associated with stress.

Shelly, a practitioner for more than 10 years, said: "This is a growing field which unfortunately is not yet showing a strong presence in the West Midlands."

The duo will also be offering a number of places at a reduced cost to those who cannot afford the full fees.

Previous participants report improved self confidence, better sleep, healthier eating, and greater pain threshold.

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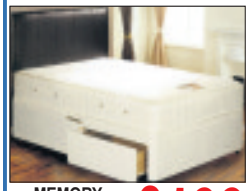
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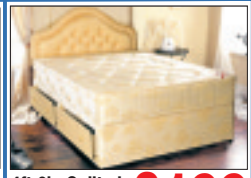
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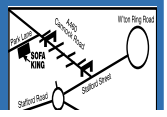

thechronicle

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walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

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Developer in plea for demolition

A 10-HOUSE development could be built in Walsall Wood under plans lodged with the council.

A developer has applied to the council to bulldoze properties at the rear of Brownhills Road and build the housing development.

The site is currently occupied by a pair of Victorian houses at the front with outhouses, extensions and overgrown gardens behind with a terrace of properties.

Frontage

The terraces were originally three houses, subsequently converted into six flats and bought by the applicant. The end terrace remains privately-owned.

The proposal is to demolish the properties, with a new gable wall making the privately owned end terrace into a detached house.

A previous planning application for a development of three flats on the frontage of the site and a further four flats to the rear was refused.

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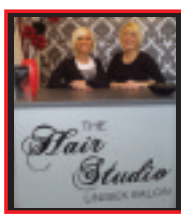

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thechronicle

George grabs career chance

A YOUNG business brain has landed his dream job after being given a helping hand by Walsall College.

George Clarke-Smith, a former Walsall College and Wolverhampton University student, was initially chosen to volunteer for 10 weeks at Walsall firm J&J Engineering as part of a research project.

The company, which manufactures quality metal pressings and welded assemblies, took part in the scheme to develop ideas for new markets and products.

Impressing

After impressing during the project with two new product ideas, the 23-year-old has been given a full time job with the company as a business operations executive.

George took part in the Young People In-Company Innovation Programme, which is funded through the Working Neighbourhoods Fund by Walsall Council. It helps and supports young people to access unique work.

George, of Walsall, said: "The project has been really interesting and it's got me where I want to be."

George with Helen Dolan, office manager at J&J, Carolyn Chapman-Lees, Walsall College head of enterprise and innovation; Jonathan and John Woodhall, directors of J&J ; Andrew Rumble, power manager at Walsall Council; and Robert Wright, J&J production manager

Flatten library 'eyesore' plea

A FORMER library in Willenhall has become a target for fly-tippers, arsonists and vandals, prompting calls for it to be pulled down. The old Forest Gate library in Lichfield Road closed two years ago.

An application to demolish it and build six flats on the site was approved by Walsall councillors earlier this year, but the site has deteriorated further and has been targeted by arsonists and vandals.

walsallchronicle
@expressandstar.co.uk

Councillor Ian Shires is calling for the site to be secured.

He said: "It has been gutted by fire, it needs to be demolished as soon as possible so it can be cleared.

Thieves

"It has been an eyesore since it closed, but it's just got worse and worse. It's surrounded by chain-link fencing, which unravels like a woolly jumper."

He said the electrics, radiators and copper piping has been stripped away from the building by thieves.

At first the aim was to sell the site to a developer along with the old Squire & Sons lock firm next door. But the factory was sold separately.

The scheme for which planning consent has been given would see six two-bedroom flats being built. Plans to build eight apartments on the site were withdrawn in 2009 and the alternative was given the go-head in April 2010.

Music ban at town bar

A WALSALL bar has been banned from playing music after it was caught without the correct licence.

The Stein Bar was visited by a music copyright inspector and its proprietor, Christopher Smith, now faces the prospect of a heavy fine or even prison if the court order is disobeyed.

The bar in Upper Rushall Street was visited on July 1 by an officer of royalties collection organisation Phonographic Performance Ltd. Dance tracks including Protect Your Mind and Silence were played.

At High Court, Mr Justice Henderson ordered Mr Smith, who was unrepresented, not to play any more music until he brings his PPL licence up to date.

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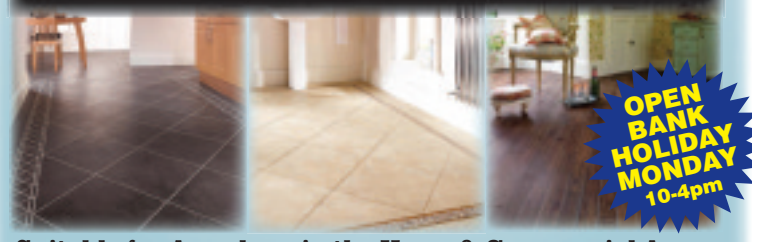

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LOCAL HERITAGE

STUART WILLIAMS, of the Walsall Local History Centre, the borough council's archives service and local studies library, takes a close look at some of the remarkable and inspirational people associated with the area

I WAS a lad in Bloxwich during the 1970s, and one television series I always remember from those days is One Man and His Dog, presented by Phil Drabble.

At that time I had no idea that Drabble, who was also well known as an author, countryman and radio presenter, hailed from my home village.

Philip Percy Cooper Drabble was born in Bloxwich on May 18, 1914, son of local surgeon and physician Dr Edward P. Drabble, of the practice Martin & Drabble, who was also an alderman on Walsall Council and active in church affairs.

Drabble was an only child. The family lived at 53 High Street, Bloxwich, an old terraced house where the dawn was heralded by a tramcar clattering by at 4am and there was no garden, just a grey-flagged yard.

Early childhood was spent exploring 'fields' littered with the remains of industry at the back of his house. Here he would catch newts, butterflies and insects in the swags and pit-bonks. Then his mother died when he was nine, and he was sent away to preparatory school in Edgbaston, Birmingham.

He subsequently went to Bromsgrove School, which he hated, and became the first boy to receive a flogging of more than six strokes from the headmaster. However, he later had his revenge on the head by putting itching powder on the seat of his lavatory.

Young Drabble's only happy memories of that school were of countryside outings with the natural history society, of which he was secretary, and his ratting exploits with the school dog.

Dr Drabble remarried, and although his son strongly disliked his stepmother he reluctantly gave in to her wish for him to go to university. He studied medicine at Keble College, Oxford, though he gave up after two years. He then studied engineering at a London polytechnic, and subsequently went to work for £2 5s a week in the toolroom of Sankeys, in Bilston.

Drabble married his childhood sweetheart, Jess, then moved to Salters, the West Bromwich spring-makers, where he stayed for 23 years, eventually becoming a director. Also on the management board of the Midlands Engineering Employers' Federation, his main duty was anticipating awkward questions from workers in industrial disputes. In the 1940s, Drabble turned to writing about country matters, his first article, on Staffordshire Bull Terriers, being published in The Field, for which he wrote regularly for more than 40 years. In 1947 he was invited to appear on BBC radio, talking about bull rings of the Black Country. After contributing to various programmes, he eventually took over Country Lover, later known as In The Country, and became a regular on Any Questions. He also wrote scenes for Tom Forrest in The Archers.

Goat Lodge, the Drabbles' countryside home near Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire. *Picture: Peter Barker*

Assistant

In 1949, Drabble returned briefly to Bloxwich to help mark the revival of Bloxwich Carnival, which had not taken place since 1932. He wrote a page of greetings entitled The Day Before Yesterday, recalling the independence of Bloxwich, which must have gone down well.

Drabble first appeared on television in 1957, in an item about his pet badger on a children's programme. He went on to feature in Badger Watch and Animal Magic.

Then in 1961 he became a full-time writer, and he and his wife purchased Goat Lodge, derelict gatehouse of the former Bagot Park estate north of Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire. They also bought 90 acres of neglected ancient woodland, a remnant of the Needwood Forest, which over the years they turned into Goat Lodge Nature Reserve.

After fending off developers and battling with Center Parcs, which wanted to build a holiday village just outside its borders in 1988, the reserve became a recognised Site of Special Scientific Interest.

From 1964, Drabble wrote regularly for the Birmingham Evening Mail, but was sacked in 1990 when the editor informed him that, according to research, the countryside held little interest for the readership. The Express & Star, sister paper to the Walsall Chronicle, felt differently, taking him on as a columnist for several years thereafter.

Drabble became known nationally as presenter of BBC TV's One Man and His Dog, commentating on sheepdog trials from 1976-1993. At its peak, the programme had more than 8 million viewers, and even the Queen asked Drabble for advice.

Midlander of the Year in 1992, and awarded an OBE in 1993, Drabble retired from the show, saying it had become "a bit boring watching dogs chase stroppy sheep round a field".

Phil Drabble died at Goat Lodge on July 29, 2007, his wife having passed away 18 months earlier. Having no children, he left most of his estate, including the house and reserve, to his personal assistant of 25 years, Ruth Froggatt, whose parents had been close friends of the Drabbles from when she was young. It is believed he thought of her as the daughter he never had.

Drabble travelled abroad only once or twice, being proud to have never lived more than 20 miles from his birthplace. A pub in Turnberry Road, Bloxwich, built in the 1990s, is named One Man and His Dog in his honour. It seems a fitting tribute.

Phil Drabble with his wife Jess near their home

One Man and His Dog, a pub named in honour of Drabble in Turnberry Road, Bloxwich. *Picture: Stuart Williams*

For local and family history, drop into Walsall Local History Centre, Essex Street, which is part of Walsall Council, log on to www.walsall.gov.uk/localhistorycentre or call 01922 721305.

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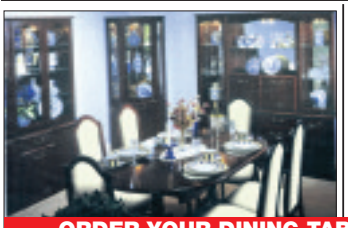

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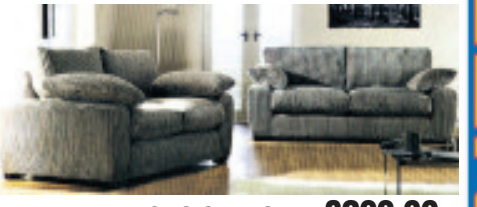

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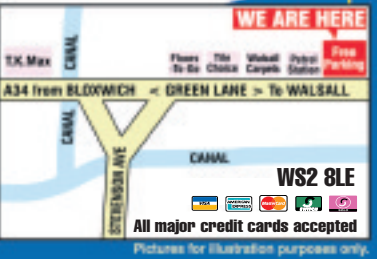

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You will be given the opportunity to meet with the staff from the various faculties and current Sixth Form students; look at displays, and discuss the courses, as well as ask any questions.

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Tragedy of intoxicated man, 52

A WALSALL man died after drinking too much alcohol, an inquest has found.

A post mortem examination showed that Graham Stanton died as a result of acute alcohol intoxication.

The 52-year-old of West Bromwich Street, Caldmore, was found dead on July 28. Walsall Coroner's Court was told he was drinking heavily the day before. He had a blood alcohol level of 366 – equivalent to almost four times the drink-drive limit – and had a history of drinking and ill health.

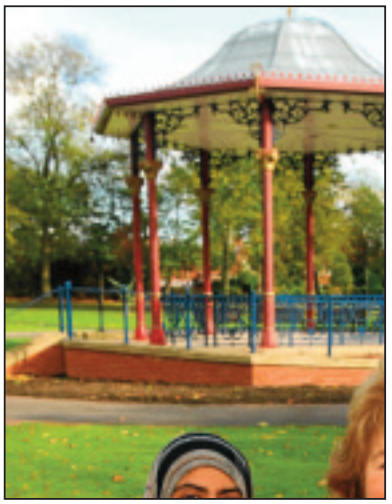
Black Country Coroner Robin Balmain recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Madeleine pride in park Friend role

By Sarah Hazelwood

WALSALL'S Palfrey Park has appointed a new chairman for the friends and users association in its bid to re-launch the site. Madeleine Holland, who has been a member of the group for five years, will take on the role which has been vacant since 2009, following the death of former leader Julie Gunn.

After her death the group became less active, but with the help of Gareth Seedhouse and the team from Walsall Council's green space improvement service the park's profile is gradually being lifted.



Rukayya Albertus, a new member of Friends of Palfrey Park, and Madeleine Holland, the new chairman

Madeleine, who was spearheaded to take on the role by Walsall Council, said: "It is so exciting and once the plans are in place the reinstating of the green flag will be just on the horizon.

"I am thrilled to be the new chairwoman and have so far received some terrific support from people across the town.

Pavilion

"Julie was a golden girl and she will be a hard act to follow but it is my pleasure to take on the role because in a lot of ways I feel I owe it to her and all the hard work that she put in.

"We have got a lot of things planned for next year and I have great visions that the work we do is going to be a huge success."

Julie's two sons are also hoping to get involved in the plans which include a new pavilion aimed at attracting a host of local groups.

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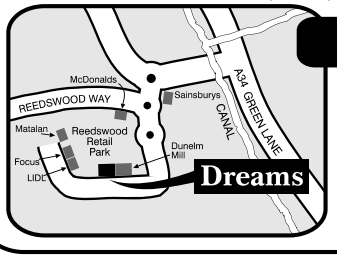

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thechronicle

Patients' bus goes right past hospital

Tilly Griffiths, Thomas Foster and Yogesh Sehgal, all aged five, have been helping to decorate Halloween pumpkins

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

CAMPAIGNERS are up in arms over the failure of a bus service to stop at Walsall Manor Hospital after it was set up just to drop off passengers there.

There was a three-year battle to bring back the 639, which used to stop there. The campaign culminated in a 120-name petition, and a motion being tabled in the Commons by Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz.

Bus operator National Express West Midlands brought back the service in July, renumbering it the 38.

It follows a route from Wednesbury and Darlaston, but does not stop at the hospital because a red route was introduced there earlier this year, banning vehicles from stopping in Pleck Road.

Darlaston South ward's Councillor Graham Wilkes said the popular service was dropping passengers heading for the hospital several hundred yards away in Bridgeman Street.

Frail pensioners now faced an uphill walk, he said.

Ridiculous

The bus company and Centro, the transport authority for the West Midlands, said they were looking into the matter.

Councillor Wilkes added: "This is a ridiculous situation. We have a bus service which is not doing what it was created for, which was to serve people attending appointments at the Manor.

"The bus reaches the hospital and carries on past it."

Jack Kelly, spokesman for the bus operator, said: "We're looking into it. If there is a red route in Pleck Road, a decision will have to be made with the hospital about what can be done."

Pumpkins cast a spell

YOUNGSTERS at a Walsall school will not be short of pumpkins this Halloween.

Delves Junior School took delivery of no fewer than 150 this week, donated by Walsall South Allotment Association.

Children visited the allotments in the summer with one of the 250 plots set aside to show youngsters how vegetables are grown.

Committee member Keith Collis said: "We were very happy to show the children around. I feel it's so important that kids learn where food comes from."

To contact the association call Keith on 07972 769373 or Derek on 07974 473274.

Chronicling households

TOWNSFOLK can learn about the history of their house tomorrow (Friday) at Walsall Local History Centre.

So many people in the borough have expressed interest in their home's past that the history centre in Essex Street is laying on a workshop from 1pm to 4.30pm.

Essential

Paul Ford, workshop leader, said: "If you want to know how to find out when your house was built, what was there before, who has lived there and more, why not join us in a workshop at the Local History Centre on How to Trace the History of your House?"

Booking for the £3 workshop is essential by calling 01922 721305.

Concert aids Lions causes

WALSALL Lions Club presents the Short Heath Singers and Musicians Concert at 7:30pm this Saturday at The Central Hall, Ablewell Street.

Admission costs £5. Pay at the door or call Gary Porter on 01922 612354. All proceeds go towards local charities supported by the Lions.

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thechronicle

Former pub left in ruins by arson

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A DERELICT pub in Rushall, Walsall, went up in flames after arsonists struck during the night, leaving the building a burnt-out shell.

Thirty firefighters battled the flames at the Miners Arms, in Lichfield Road. Police closed the main road for about two hours while fire crews used an aerial ladder platform to direct water on the fire from above.

Demolished

The pub closed 10 months ago, and ex-regular David Craddock, aged 64, a builder, was one of the first to spot smoke last Wednesday and call the fire brigade.

He said: "I just saw smoke pouring out of the top. I thought that it was scrap metal burning at first because of the smell. This was expected – any time a pub closes they leave it and someone silly gets in and sets it alight. It's a shame, because it was a good pub in its day."

Mr Craddock added: "This just seems to happen a lot in Walsall."

Watch commander Richard Cooper, of Bloxwich fire station, said: "It's looking like it's arson. It's probably taken about 90 per cent of the building in fire damage. It looks like it started in one of the first floor rooms."

He said crews were being called to disused buildings on fire "more and more".

A derelict tannery, former home to leather firm Jabez Cliff & Co in Lower Forster Street, also went up in flames earlier this year, while disused school buildings on the Shelfield Academy site in Broad Way were engulfed by flames during the summer holidays.

Former Willenhall school Lakeside Primary had to be demolished a month early after an arson attack rendered the buildings unsafe.

Keith Watkins, pubs preservation officer for Walsall Camra, said: "It is a shame to lose a pub like this which was part of the fabric of the town.

"But, unfortunately, it seems to be typical."

Charred roof timbers at the Miners Arms, Rushall

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thechronicle

£34,000 so far for church's new look

AN OUTDATED Bloxwich church which is to be rebuilt to create better facilities for community events has so far raised £34,000 towards the project.

The designs for the new-look church have now been submitted to town planners for the re-development of Holy Ascension where worshippers have launched a fundraising scheme to cover the costs.

It will cost around £500,000 to transform the Sanstone Road premises, originally intended to be a temporary church, when it was opened 42 years ago.

Vicar and chairman of the Holy Ascension community project management committee, Rev Kareen Lowther, spoke of his delight at the level of support from local people.

Replaced

He said: "I continue to be overwhelmed by the support we are getting from members of the church and the local community for this project.

"The number of folk from the community who are coming to our events and activities increases all the time, and that reflects a wider knowledge of the project.

"Whenever I stop to chat with people in the street they ask when the new church is going to be built," Mr Lowther added.

The existing church will be demolished and replaced with a new building comprising meeting rooms for worship and midweek events.

A portable building in the grounds used for storage will also be removed.

Mayoral limo facing the axe

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

WALSALL'S traditional mayoral car and driver could be axed in a bid to save cash-strapped council chiefs more than £40,000 a year.Councillors are considering hiring transport for the mayor to attend formal engagements instead of leasing a luxurious Jaguar XJS car and employing their own driver.

The authority currently hires Walsall Mayor Councillor Garry Per ry's car and owns one for use by the deputy, Councillor Graham Wilkes.

Options include using an agency driver rather than a council-employed one and completely outsourcing the whole service. The current driver could be transferred across to a new employer.

The move would save the council £44,000 a year in salary costs and leasing fees.

The mayor, as first citizen, is chauffeur-driven to events as part of a long-standing tradition. Chiefs insist there is no formal proposal at this stage, although they admit a number of posts are now outsourced.

External

Council leader Mike Bird said: "We're evaluating the benefits of outsourcing the role of mayoral driver which could save £44,000 a year but would also provide a high level of service.

"Many posts across the council are outsourced. This is nothing new and we have also used external drivers many times in the past while still upholding and advancing the proud traditions of the Mayor's Office.

"We've advised a member of staff affected involved but we would stress that this is a proposal, and no decision has been made."

Walsall Council has also unveiled another money-saving measure – emergency pothole repairs that are usually carried out within 24 hours could soon take up to five days.

Karen Allbright, left, Deborah Phillips, Denise Bevan

Work pals fall out

By Charlotte Lilley

FIVE women workers from Pelsall fell out in a big way – from a plane – in aid of Breast Cancer UK and Afghan Heroes. Karen Albright, Denise Bevan, Rhiannon Ferguson, Joanne Perrins and Deborah Phillips all decided to take the plunge on the spur of the moment.

"We've never done anything like this before" said Rihannon.

"We just decided it was something we all wanted to do, so we went for it.

"I wasn't scared really, just paced myself for it. It was really good fun."

The women, all accountants at Booker Cole Ltd, Norton Lane, Pelsall, raised £3,000 with their sponsored skydive.

Rhiannon descends with her instructor

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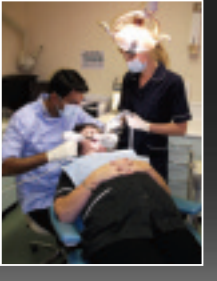

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thechronicle

Miss Teen English Diamond 2011, Jess Watts

Diamond girl Jess wins

MISS Teen Walsall, Jess Watts, has returned home from Manchester the proud new owner of a Miss English Diamond title.

The 16-year-old from Bloxwich took part in two rounds at the city's Sacha Hotel last weekend – fashion and formal – against other girls representing their home towns. Jess proved to be Walsall's true gem as was selected in first place and now has the title Miss Teen English Diamond. She won a fabulous crown and sash and some wonderful prizes.

Jess said it was not only for herself, but for everyone who supported her, particularly the Mayor, Councillor Garry Perry, and the townsfolk of Walsall.

Ex-MP proud of town title

FORMER Walsall MP Bruce George spoke of his delight and pride as he was given the freedom of the borough.

The 69-year-old was honoured for his 36 years of dedicated service to the people of Walsall. Councillors from all political persuasions joined friends and family of Mr George in the council chamber as the Labour veteran was made an honorary freeman of the borough.

Privilege

The Mayor of Walsall, Councillor Garry Perry, who presented the honour, described the former MP as a "man in a million".

Mr George was elected MP for Walsall South in 1974 and stepped down last year.

Mr George said: "I'm delighted to have been given this honour. I've made Walsall my home and my wife and I continue to live here.

"Without doubt my proudest achievement of the 36 years is the fact that I held surgeries virtually every week.

"It has been the most enormous privilege and genuine pleasure to have represented the people of Walsall South for 36 years.

Mr Perry said: "Regardless of our differing political beliefs, he has given so much to so many communities in Walsall during his term as a member of parliament".

Mr George was joined at the ceremony by his wife Lisa Toelle, who comes from Missouri, USA.

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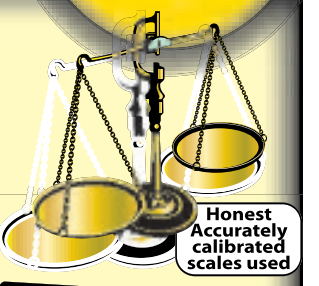

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thechronicle

Digital switch con mother preyed on old

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A WALSALL woman who posed as a TV technician and targeted pensioners in "callous" distraction burglaries has been jailed for three years.

Mother-of-four Kelly Nolan stole the purse of a 90-year-old woman in a wheelchair after telling her she was visiting ahead of the digital TV switchover.

The heroin addict told another 82-year-old woman she was giving her a free hearing aid.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court, Judge John Wait told 30-year-old Nolan: "It was callous indeed to steal from the elderly by deceiving them into thinking you were there to help when in fact you were waiting for the opportunity to steal their purses."

Warren Stainer, prosecuting, said that in the first burglary earlier this year Nolan, of Rowley Street, Walsall, called at the home of a wheelchair-bound woman. Gaining entry by telling her she was there to help with the digital TV switchover, she stole a purse after asking for a glass of water.

She then stole the purse of an 82-year-old woman after telling her she was entitled to a free hearing aid.

Resorted

Nolan admitted two burglary charges and asked the judge to consider a similar offence involving a 70-year-old woman in Walsall.

Mr Stainer said Nolan was linked to the offences by DNA and told police she needed money for her £70-a-day heroin habit.

Nolan had previous convictions for similar distraction burglaries involving victims all aged 70 and over.

Robert Perry, defending, said Nolan had managed to put her drug problems behind her and stay out of trouble, but then resorted to her old ways.

Serena's stitch in time

Serena Perks designs clothes for an online boutique

A WALSALL fashion designer has won the backing of an exclusive website to showcase her hand-crafted clothing.

Serena Perks, aged 24, of Darwin Place, has created vintage and ethnic-style outfits, largely using chiffon and lace, now launched on the claspclothing.com website.

"I've been designing my clothes for five years and then saw an ad for a freelance designer, so sent off my graduate pieces," Serena said.

Housing group's recruits

VOLUNTEERS have signed up to scrutinise one of the Black Country's largest housing associations.

Walsall Housing Group has recruited 15 committee and board members.

The volunteers were formally welcomed to the organisation with a tour of its estates and new developments across the borough.

The group then visited WHG's Willenhall office.

Among the new members are Walsall councillors Mohammed Arif, Louise Harrison and Keith Chambers; Stuart Chapman of Walsall Tenants and Residents Federation; and magistrate Margaret Hayes.

Success

They will fill a combination of tenant, independent and council seats on the housing group's board or one of the five local committees that cover Aldridge and Brownhills, Bloxwich, Central Walsall, Darlaston and Willenhall.

Helen Lane, WHG governance manager, said: "Our recent recruitment campaign has proved a great success and we're very lucky to have an excellent selection of new members."

The group is also looking to establish a pool of independent members and will be recruiting additional tenant members. Call Ms Lane on 0300 555 6666 or email helen.lane@whgrp.co.uk to find out more.

Halloween spirit

A HALLOWEEN psychic night will be held at the United Kingdom Inn, Bloxwich Road North, Willenhall, on Monday, October 31, at 7pm, tickets £12.50.

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E&OE

thechronicle REVIEWS

Madame Butterfly, The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton

The coquettish and beautiful Elena Dee seemed born to play the part of Cio-Cio-San in this Ellen Kent production of Puccini's tragic love story.

With a soprano voice that filled the theatre with crystal clear tones and excellently expressive acting, Korean singer Dee portrayed the misguided and lovelorn Madama Butterfly wonderfully.

She was more than ably supported by Ruslan Zinevych as the love rat Lieutenant F B Pinkerton, Viktoriia Zhytkova as her faithful servant Suzuki and the slimy marriage broker Goro played with gusto by Sergiy Ledenov.

Butterfly, set in Nagasaki, Japan, in the early 1900s, is the story of a geisha, a trusting soul who gives herself completely to American Pinkerton and remains the faithful wife when all around her, barring Suzuki, have disowned her.

Bringing up the absent naval officer's son, Butterfly looks longingly over the sea every day for years hoping to see her love return.However, when he does he brings with him tragedy, heartbreak and ultimately the demise of Cio-Cio-San.

The heart-rending tale is told wonderfully through Puccini's score, expressing the highs and lows of being desperately in love.

DANNY FARRAGHER

Stephen Merchant, Symphony Hall

For more than 10 years Stephen Merchant has lived in the shadow of his comedy partner Ricky Gervais,

The pair have made hugely successful television programmes The Office and Extras, and the 6ft 7in Merchant has left his stand-up career on the back burner.

But Merchant's bold attempt to branch out on his own with new tour Hello Ladies will pay off handsomely. Refreshingly, Gervais only gets one mention in the show with Merchant focusing not on his fame, but his inability to woo the ladies.

Of course the duo share the same sense of humour so there are tinges of Gervais here, but Merchant gives his routine a far more humble and genuinely endearing touch. Stephen Merchant is at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday, November 5.

TIM SPIERS

One Man, Two Guvnors, New Alexandra

Panto season came early to the Alex, James Corden revamped an 18th century play in a rollicking night of belly laughs with lots of audience participation.

Set in 1960s Brighton by playwright Richard Bean, rather than 1740s Venice, a fine ensemble from the National Theatre blend farce, slapstick, music hall smut and a dollop of Monty Pythonism.

Daniel Rigby is superb as a pompous actor, Oliver Chris is barking as an upper-class twit and Tom Edden almost steals the show as a decrepit ancient waiter. There's even a rock 'n' roll band on stage. But Nicholas Hytner's production hinges on Corden as the feckless hungry rogue who spectacularly fails to cope with his two jobs.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

End of the Rainbow, Hippodrome

JUDY Garland is resurrected by an astonishing performance from Tracie Bennett in Peter Quilter's witty and poignant drama with songs about the decline and fall of the showbiz legend.

This is no tribute to the Hollywood icon in the Stars In Your Eyes mode, although ex-Coronation Street actress Bennett did win a celebrity version some years ago. Instead, it is an uncensored depiction of the pill-popping, tantrum-throwing, Garland at the end of her life. She was dead at 47 from an overdose of sleeping pills.

Set in a hotel room and the Talk of the Town nightclub, during her punishing schedule of London concerts in 1968 just before her death, Tracie Bennett is spellbinding as the little woman with a big voice. Her performance crackles with energy, showing the way Garland could transform herself on stage despite crippling self-doubt.

There is solid support from Hilton McRae as her pianist and confidante Anthony and Norman Bowman as future husband number five Mickey.

But the play belongs to Tracie Bennett and her intensely physical performance, thrown around by her fiance, crawling, crying, totally wired on uppers. The final Somewhere Over The Rainbow is a heart-breaker and won a standing ovation.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

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REVIEWS

thechronicle

Cliff Richard, Soulicious Tour, LG Arena, Birmingham

They came from near and far to pay homage to the Peter Pan of pop, and he didn't disappoint.

Appearing in a shiny silver suit Sir Cliff Richard maybe realised that the long trek many fans had made and launched into From A Distance. Keen to promote his latest album Soulicious, Cliff duetted with various soul stars, but in between treated the packed LG to memories from his long and amazingly successful career.

The 71-year-singer who left the stage for five costume changes during the two and a half hour show – that's more than Tina Turner – is certainly still very sprightly and kept up with the very accomplished dancers.

One by one Percy Sledge, Lamont Dozier, Freda Payne, Billy Davis Jnr and Jaki Graham joined Cliff on stage to perform their own hits as well as to duet with Cliff. But he always kept his promise to his 'delicious' fans as he referred to the packed Arena and kept switching back to songs like I Could Easily Fall and In The Country from his Shadows era.

Moving on to his films he predicably went into The Young Ones and Summer Holiday and then into the Terry Britten era with songs like Devil Woman.

Cliff came back for his encore with Always and Forever and it's safe to say that Cliff will Always be a major star and that's Forever.

SUE ATTWATER

Erasure, Wolverhampton Civic Hall

Billed as the Tomorrow's World tour, it was more Out of This World for Erasure at a packedCivic Hall.

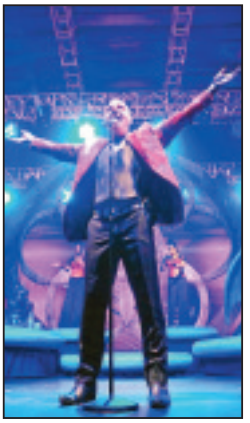
Twenty five years after their first major UK Top 40 hit, Sometimes, the electronic pop duo of Andy Bell and Vince Clarke took to a gothic-themed stage set, complete with gargoyle keyboard arrangement for Clarke, alongside just two backing singers, Emma and Valerie Chalmers, to the lesser-known Sono Luminus from 1995.

But the party atmosphere began there and didn't stop for the well-chosen set. And the guys certainly cut the mustard as much today as they did a quarter of a century ago.

New material from the Tomorrow's World album including Fill Us With Fire, You've Got To Save Me Right Now and A Whole Lotta Love Run Riot, mixed perfectly with classics such as Love To Hate You, Stop, Always and A Little Respect.

Andy Bell looked amazing, entering the stage in a pink sequinned jacket and matching Roman helmet.

EMMA FARMER



Andy Bell on stage at the Civic

Mr Stink, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

THE children's book by the taller half of Little Britain, David Walliams, has been turned into a delightful musical with a positive message about love and acceptance, adapted and directed by Matthew White.

Peter Edbrook was charming as the whiffy aristocratic tramp with a talking (to audience only) dog befriended by lonely schoolgirl Chloe Crumb, played with a nice innocence by Lotte Gilmore.

In return Mr Stink gets a spoilt bully off her back with a strategically placed belch and parps at the Prime Minister to destroy the political ambitions of Chloe's wanna-be MP mother, the operatically-voiced Julia J Nagle. Chloe's mum was the sort of person to insist her surname be pronounced 'croom'. Irvin Iqbal added several funny cameos, including barmy confectionery-obsessed shopkeeper Raj.

The show was dubbed a scratch and sniff musical but to me every pong on the handout was identical... thankfully the show was no stinker.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

Sharon Shannon
Glee Club, Birmingham

Irish folk musician Sharon Shannon is called a virtuoso of the accordion and boy, does she deserve it. She does things with that squeezebox that a decade ago the Catholic church would have banned as incendiary.

Shannon and her talented musicians gave the appreciative Glee audience a perfect example of the Craic and she hit them right between the eyes from the start.

She spends the whole set sitting down, but the energy Shannon puts into the jigs and reels during her performance with her hands just a blur as they fire out notes with every squeeze of her instrument is just infectious.

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thechronicle

No messing with new ref Butler

Butler ushered in as a new referee

WALSALL skipper Andy Butler scored on the Saturday – and then donned black to take his first match as a referee the next day.

He was the man in charge as Ashmore Lake took on Bradmore Social in the T Bird Cup second round tie on Sunday morning.

Appealed

Last week Butler was welcomed into the refereeing fraternity by Wolverhampton & District ref appointments officer Phil Reade after the Saddlers defender became a fully qualified official.

Butler, 28 next Friday, is currently a Level 7 referee and needs to move up four more levels to be able to officiate in the Football League.

He said: "I love the game and want to stay in it but the number of coaches out there, and players who want to go into coaching, make that very difficult as a career after I've finished playing. But refereeing is something that has always appealed."

Walsall captain Andy Butler, left, is welcomed by Wolverhampton and District Referees' Assocation appointments officer Phil Reade after the Saddlers defender became a fully qualified official

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COMPETITION

thechronicle

Tuck into this tasty ticket offer

Food show serves up treat for its 21st birthday

THE BBC Good Food Show Winter is 21 this year and to celebrate we have teamed up with the organisers to offer 10 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

The BBC Good Food Show is at Birmingham's NEC from Wednesday, November 23 to Sunday, November 27 and as the biggest and best food show in the country it has been paving the way for food shows for the past 21 years.

This year the line-up is just as stellar as always with top foodie faces including John Torode, Gregg Wallace, James Martin, Rick Stein, Glynn Purnell and many more taking to the 2,000-seater Supertheatre.

There will be hundreds of exhibitors from Flavours of Spain to British Fine Foods and Luponde tea plus come and see some exhibitors who have been with the show from the very beginning including Foxes Spices and The Curry Sauce Company.

With Christmas just around the corner it will be the perfect place to pick up inspiration to make your Christmas stand out from the crowds this year and try something different.

For more information about the show, visit www.thenec.co.uk.

Ticket prices start at just £20.50 and are available from The Ticket Factory: www.theticketfactory.com or 0844 338 8000.

John Torode and Gregg Wallace, presenters of MasterChef, will be in the show Supertheatre

Lots of food to sample at the show

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Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number (only one entry per household) to Food Show competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

Closing date: Thursday, November 3.

Competition ticket cannot be used on the Saturday. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

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snappers claim to frame

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Autumn leaves near Park Hall Lake, byUmair and Masal Asim

Little Bloxwich canalside, by Suzanne Bennett

Horse riding at Pelsall, by Dennis Street

Park Lime Pits Lake, by Amanda Fry

Pictures of life in the borough

ARE you a snazzy snapper, a lord of the lens or a diva of the digital print? Think you can do better than these pictures? If you can, why not share your snaps of the borough?

There is no limit on the age or the subject – all we ask is that photos be as sharp and clear as possible and of reasonable quality for publication, featuring some area or aspect of Walsall and its life.

Send photos in with your, name, address and contact number and a brief description of what the picture shows.

We would like to hear about any interesting tales or stories attached to the photograph. Send them in either as a hard copy or electronically and we'll do the rest. So get those cameras snapping, dig out those dusty old albums and email them to ***walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk*** *or send them by post to* ***Snappers Claim to Frame, Walsall Chronicle, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.***

Cygnets waiting to feed, in the canal at Little Bloxwich, by John Bird

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FOR those waiting to join the smartphone revolution but put off by high prices and long, locked in contracts, Vodafone looks like providing a new entry level.

Its functional, no-nonsense own brand **858** does most of what other phones two or three times the price do, but at a reasonable £75 and on pay-as-you-go.

If you want great stylish looks and all the latest whistles and bells delivered at lightning fast speeds, look elsewhere and pay more. But if you are prepared to make small sacrifices for economy, such as a cramped screen and on-screen keyboard that's a tad fiddly and takes up screen space, consider the 858.

Quicker

It is touchscreen driven and comfortably handles all the main tasks of a smartphone. It runs Android 2.2 so you can download apps, can link up to the net and other phones via Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and USB, and it plays and records video.

The camera is a basic 2 megapixel job and the 130mb onboard memory may become exhausted by heavy users, though there is a microSD slot for additional memory. There's also an FM radio.

But if money's tight and you are eager to download the latest apps like your mates, and keep tabs on them with Twitter and Facebook, and do internet browsing, this is a good option.

For smartphone users who expect the full fat Android experience, HTC's new and improved **Wildfire S** is a better option at around £145, free on some contracts.

This revamp of an established favourite has upped the resolution of the LCD screen to 320x480 and the screen display is a generous 3.2in on which to see those sharply detailed icons, pictures and text. It packs a better and quicker processor which means much faster load when browsing the web and only the most memory hungry apps cause any appreciable lagging.

The five megapixel camera is still better than most of the budget to medium opposition, and with a modern chipset and using Google's mobile OS, it's light on the battery. Visit www.vodafone.co.uk for stockists

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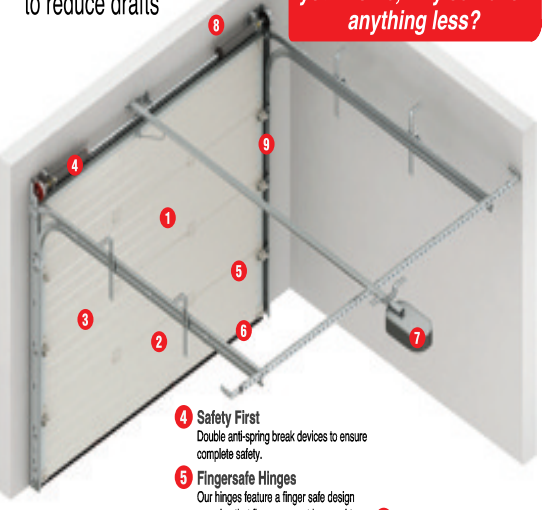

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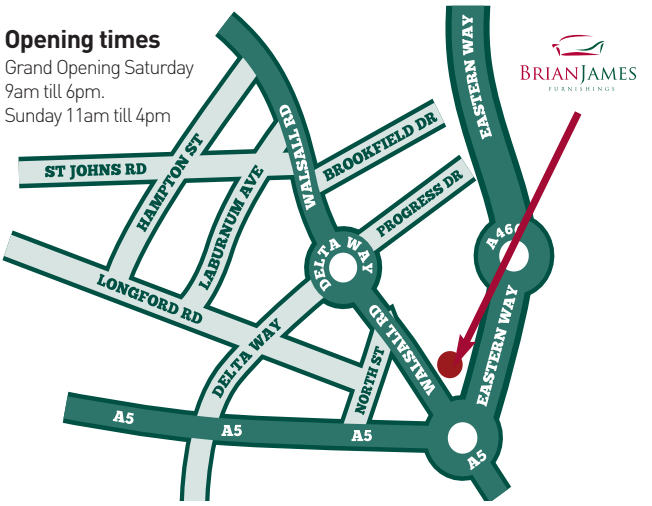

The Saturdays on the cover of their latest single My Heart Takes Over and (below) Vanessa White

Saturdays soon to be On Your Radar

IF you haven't picked up on the Saturdays by now, they will be On Your Radar from November 21.

It has been three years since the band first troubled the charts with debut release If This Is Love. Some 11 singles later, they have gone on to become the country's favourite – and most glamorous - girl band and are about to embark on their first arena tour. And the baby of the group, Vanessa White, cannot wait.

The quintet have been busy rehearsing for the 12-date tour, which kicks off in Bournemouth on December 2 and hits the LG Arena, Birmingham on December 8.

"We love touring and performing and we can't wait to get started," the Yeovil-born songstress told The Chronicle. "It's our first arena tour, so it's the big one for us, really. It's all very exciting."

Before that, the band's new single My Heart Takes Over is out on November 13. It will be third track, following Notorious and All Fired Up, from the third studio album, entitled On Your Radar. Previous singles have shown a marked difference from the Saturdays' earlier material. Vanessa , who turns 22 on Sunday (30), said she was looking forward to the release.

"We've had a lot more input than ever before and put a lot of time into it," she said. "So it's a lot more personal to us."

The Saturdays' previous tour spawned a fly-on-the-wall mini-documentary series, The Saturdays: What Goes on Tour. Although there are no concrete plans for a follow-up, Vanessa said talks had taken place over a similar series in America.

Attention

This year's Valentine's Day date at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall also saw young Kyle Orchard present a red rose to each band member. So, what does Vanessa think of all the male attention? Simply: "It's very flattering."

Tour dates finish on December 18 before another new single is released in the New Year ahead of another significant date, the birth of bandmate Una Healy's baby in March, with Vanessa readily admitting they were all "looking forward to being aunties."

A Hard Knock Life for boozy Miss Hannigan

BUBBLY actress and comedienne Su Pollard is heading back to Wolverhampton to play boozy Miss Hannigan one more time as the hard touring musical Annie comes to the end of the road.

Nottingham-born Su has fond memories of the Grand Theatre, she was in panto there just before she landed the TV role of Peggy the chalet maid in fondly remembered 1980s holiday camp sit-com Hi-de-Hi!

Su, who has lived in London for 35 years, said she loved the gypsy lifestyle of being in a touring show and has played Miss Hannigan on-and-off for eight years. When she wasn't in the role it was played by her good friend Ruth Madoc, who played her Hi-de-Hi! nemesis Gladys Pugh.

"I think Annie is one of the classic musicals," said Su. "It has such a positive message, especially for times such as these. It's about never giving up hope."

Su has a ball as the drunken orphanage boss whose family try to cash-in on little orphan Annie's new found riches, when she is adopted by Daddy Warbucks.

"I think poor Miss Hannigan is much misunderstood," said Su.

"Look at the poor woman. She has no life. She is stuck in that orphanage 24-7. She has to put up with these pasty-faced orphans singing and giggling all the time. No wonder she's hit the bottle!"

Su revealed that her drink-sodden dragon is based on a real person whom

Su Pollard as Miss Hannigan

she encountered back home in Nottingham.

"It's the butcher's wife," said Su. "She was a lovely lady but was a borderline alcoholic. As a result she was rather unkempt, her hair all skewwhiff. Life had got too much for her and so she was on the gin. Miss Hannigan is much the same, except she's on the Jack Daniels."

One of Su's most notorious TV appearances involved someone who had hit the bottle. She was the unfortunate other guest on the night the late Oliver Reed made his notorious drunken appearance on the Michael Aspel chat show.

"Poor Oliver, he had been at a wedding reception all day and had called at a pub on the way to the studio," remembered Su.

Cultured

"He thought he had a reputation to live up to of being inebriated and a bit dangerous and it got out of hand that night. He was actually a very nice man, he later invited me to have dinner with him at The Ivy and he didn't touch a drop that night. Though he didn't actually use the word 'sorry', he did say he had been 'a bit out of order'."

Su was also keen to pay tribute to the recently deceased David Croft, who created Hi-de-Hi! with co-writer Jimmy Perry, and gave her the plum role of dotty Peggy Ollerenshaw.

"I owe him a lot," said Su. "He was a very cultured man and he would also take a risk on casting a relatively unknown actor or actress, such as myself at the time."

Su is looking forward to joining the Tomorrow musical for one more turn at the Hard Knock Life before this version of the show finally comes to an end. Then she plans to hit the road again next year in her own one-woman show.

Annie will be staged at Wolverhampton Grand from Tuesday, November 1, until Saturday, November 5.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

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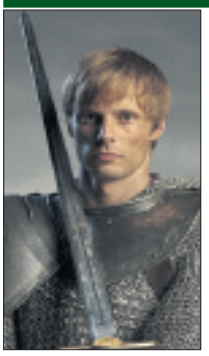

MERLIN
BBC1, 8.10pm

Arthur and his brave warriors may be knights of the Round Table, but unlike the protagonists of hit musical Spamalot, they don't dance whenever they're able. Instead, as we see in this episode, they clash with the likes of the formidable Queen Annis. With thousands of lives hanging in the balance, Arthur must find the strength to become the leader his people so desperately need. Bradley James (Arthur) and Colin Morgan (Merlin) are present and correct as usual, while the sublime Lindsay Duncan (these days best known for her work in Doctor Who) guest stars as Annis. The rest of the cast includes housewives' favourite Anthony Head and Richard Wilson.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.30** Formula 1: The Indian Grand Prix – Qualifying. Live coverage from the Buddh International Circuit. **11.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Formula 1: The Indian Grand Prix – Qualifying. **2.00** Live Rugby League. England v Wales (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** A Question of Sport. (R) **5.40** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 The Impressions Show with Culshaw and Stephenson. (R)
6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly introduce the 11 remaining couples, who don their most ghoulish and bewitching costumes to perform in a Halloween spectacular.
8.10 Merlin. Arthur faces his first true test as king.
8.55 Casualty. Lloyd helps an elderly patient suspected of wasting the staff's time.
9.45 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. OJ Borg announces the all-important numbers.
9.55 BBC News; Weather.
10.15 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Chelsea v Arsenal; National Lottery Update.
11.45 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Film: Swing Time. (1936) Musical, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. **1.40** Film: Bye Bye Birdie. (1963) Musical, starring Dick Van Dyke. **3.30** Coast. (R) **3.40** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.40** Great British Food Revival. (R) **5.40** Flog It! (R)

6.40 Operation Jericho. A Second World War RAF mission to free French Resistance fighters. (R)
7.40 'Allo 'Allo! Rene joins the Resistance. (R)
8.10 Dad's Army. Mainwaring's men pose as traitors. (R)
8.40 Code-Breakers: Bletchley Park's Lost Heroes. Keeley Hawes narrates the story of how a duo unravelled the secrets of Adolf Hitler's personal code machine – reputedly even more secure than the notorious Enigma device. (R)
9.40 QI XL. With Sandi Toksvig, Clive Anderson and Henning Wehn. (R)
10.25 Laughs in the Park. Highlights from the comedy festival.
11.25 TOTP2: Halloween Special. Steve Wright presents an edition featuring spooky-themed clips from the pop archive. (R)

12.25 Film: Halloween. (1978) Horror, starring Jamie Lee Curtis. **1.55** Later with Jools Holland. (R) **2.00** Film: (GMT) Ginger Snaps. (2000) Canadian horror, starring Katharine Isabelle and Emily Perkins. **3.40** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.15** CITV. **9.25** Coronation Street. **12.10** This Morning: Saturday. **1.10** ITV News; Weather. **1.15** 100% You've Been Framed! (R) **2.15** Film: Babe: Pig in the City. (1998) Family comedy sequel, with Magda Szubanski. **4.00** Film: Bean. (1997) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **5.35** Regional Programmes. **5.45** ITV News; Weather.

6.00 The Chase. New series. Celebrity version of the quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh.
7.00 New You've Been Framed! Featuring a woman falling foul of a chipmunk.
7.30 Harry Hill's TV Burp. A comic review of the week's small-screen highlights.
8.00 The X Factor. Dermot O'Leary hosts the fourth live studio round as the 10 remaining acts battle to get one step closer to that life-changing recording contract. The results can be seen tomorrow at 8pm.
9.45 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: James Corden. New series. The actor and comedy writer is interviewed.
10.45 ITV News; Weather.
11.00 FILM: Constantine. (2005) Supernatural thriller, starring Keanu Reeves.

1.15 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **3.05** (GMT) Kojak. (R) **4.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** (GMT) ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.05 Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Film Show. (R) **7.00** Commonwealth Mountain and Ultra Distance Championships. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Smallville. (R) **9.50** T4: Made in Chelsea. **10.50** T4: Inside SBTV: From Bedroom to Boardroom. **11.20** T4: Shipwrecked: A Look Back. (R) **12.25** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.45 The Simpsons. With the voices of Lucy Lawless and Tom Arnold. (R)
7.15 Channel 4 News.
7.45 World War II: The Last Heroes. A re-creation of a momentous battle in Normandy.
8.45 Jamie's Great Britain. Jamie Oliver explores the origins of Britain's favourite dishes. (R)
9.45 FILM: Ghosts of Girlfriends Past. (2009) Premiere. Romantic comedy, starring Matthew McConaughey and Jennifer Garner.
11.45 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncut.

12.35 Rude Tube. (R) **1.35** Film: Friday the 13th. (2009) Premiere. Horror remake, starring Jared Padalecki. **2.10** Film: (GMT) Baazi. (1951) Bollywood musical, starring Dev Anand. **4.40** Countdown. (R) **5.25** Sali Mali. (R) **5.30** The Hoobs. (R) **5.55** (GMT) Paralympic Wheelchair Rugby GB Cup 2011. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.20** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.20** Highland Emergency. (R) **11.50** Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) **12.50** Big Brother: The Eviction Interview. (R) **1.20** Film: They Were Expendable. (1945) Second World War drama, with John Wayne. **3.55** Film: Gun for a Coward. (1956) Western, starring Fred MacMurray. **5.40** 5 News Weekend. **5.45** Film: Brannigan. (1975) Detective thriller, starring John Wayne.

8.00 FILM: A Fistful of Dollars. (1964) A nameless gunslinger rides into a town split by feuding families, and plays them off against each other. Sergio Leone's Western, starring Clint Eastwood and Gian Maria Volonte.
9.45 Big Brother. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.45 FILM: Kickboxer. (1989) A martial arts fighter seeks revenge on the Thai champion who paralysed his brother in a fight. Action thriller, with Jean-Claude Van Damme.

12.35 SuperCasino. **4.00** (GMT) The FBI Files. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
3.15 The Only Way Is Essex **4.45** Film: Back to the Future Part III (1990) **7.00** Four of a Kind **8.00** Britain's Biggest Babies **9.00** Grimefighters **9.30** Kelly Clarkson: The Hot Desk **9.45** The Xtra Factor **10.45** Celebrity Juice **11.30** Peter Andre: My Life **5.40** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
1.45 Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.00** A Touch of Frost **6.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **8.00** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Foyle's War **11.15** Film: Air America (1990)

ITV4
2.50 Film: Moonraker (1979) **5.20** Film: The Sting (1973) **8.00** Minder **9.00** Film: Barb Wire (1996) **11.00** Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club **11.45** Film: Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985)

BBC THREE
7.00 Wallace & Gromit's Cracking Contraptions **7.10** Wallace & Gromit **7.40** Film: Madagascar (2005) **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **9.45** Film: Lesbian Vampire Killers (2009) **11.10** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad!

BBC FOUR
7.00 Life **8.00** Agony & Ecstasy: A Year with English National Ballet **9.00** Wallander: Firewall **10.25** Secret Life of Ice **11.25** The Slap

E4
3.55 Made in Chelsea **5.00** Samantha Who? **5.30** Scrubs **6.25** The Big Bang Theory **7.25** Happy Endings **7.50** How I Met Your Mother **8.50** The Big Bang Theory **9.45** Film: Zoolander (2001) **11.25** Misfits

FILM4
2.45 Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines (1965) **5.20** Robots (2005) **7.05** Taxi (2004) **9.00** Rush Hour 3 (2007) **10.45** Hitman (2007)

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- Tania Water Crackers, 125g
- Figaro Olives with Pimentos, 142g
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- Weston's Traditional Fruit Cake, 600g
- Rademaker Chocolate Mint sticks, 75g
- Royal Edinburgh Shortbread Fingers, 125g
- Borges Green Olives with Pimento, 125ml
- Carr's Seasame Water Crackers, 125g
- Walkers Strawberry & Cream Biscuits, 150g
- Twinnings English Breakfast Tea (20s)

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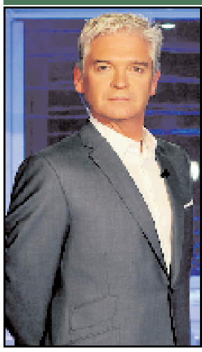

THE CUBE

ITV1, 7pm

Without a shadow of a doubt, Philip Schofield is the most likeable man on telly. If he's not bringing us the news and celebrity gossip of a morning he can often be found consoling the latest crop of contestants beaten by his large Perspex box. The Cube enjoyed phenomenal success in its first three series, stopping along the way to pick up a Bafta Award, as the masses continually tuned in to shout at their televisions each week. Well, now Philip and his box are back to test the skill and determination of more hopefuls who'll learn the hard way that it's a very different kettle of fish when you're actually in there and attempting to complete the challenge yourself.

BBC1

6.00 (GMT) Breakfast. 7.50 Match of the Day (R) 9.40 Formula 1: The Indian Grand Prix – Live. The 17th round of the season from the Buddh International Circuit (Start-time 8.30am). 12.00 The Politics Show; Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.10 Escape to the Country (R) 2.10 Formula 1: The Indian Grand Prix (R) 4.10 Frozen Planet (R) 5.10 Points of View. 5.25 Songs of Praise.

6.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.25 Countryfile. Rural life in Northumberland and the Farne Islands. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.25 Strictly Come Dancing. The result is announced.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. From the Great Hall at the University of Birmingham.

9.00 Da Vinci: The Lost Treasure. A recently discovered painting by Leonardo da Vinci.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Extended edition, hosted by Lee Mack.

11.10 Ask Rhod Gilbert. With Nick Hewer, Jenny Eclair and Christian O'Connell. (R)

11.45 FILM: Smart People. (2008) Comedy drama, starring Dennis Quaid.

1.15 Weatherview. 1.20 Sign Zone: Film 2011 with Claudia Winkleman (R) 2.00 Holby City (R) 3.00 A Farmer's Life for Me. (R) 4.00 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies: (GMT) Zigby 6.10 The Large Family (R) 6.20 Garth and Bev (R) 6.35 Dipdap (R) 6.40 Gigglebiz. (R) 7.00 CBBC. 10.00 Something for the Weekend. 11.30 Great British Food Revival (R) 12.30 Flog It! (R) 1.00 EastEnders. 2.35 Film: Tara Road (2005) Drama, starring Andie MacDowell and Olivia Williams. 4.20 Film: Miss Potter. (2006)

6.00 The [illegible] Awards 2011.

7.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson races against the rotation of the Earth. (R)

8.00 Tintin's Adventures with Frank Gardner. The cartoon character's origins.

9.00 Louis Theroux: America's Most Dangerous Pets. Wild animals being kept by homeowners in America.

10.00 Match of the Day 2. Tottenham Hotspur v Queens Park Rangers.

10.50 Fast and Loose. Featuring Justin Edwards, Humphrey Ker and Jess Ransom. (R)

11.20 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With Adam Buxton, Reggie Yates, Margaret Cho, Dynamo and Beverley Knight. (R)

11.50 FILM: Halloween 6: The Curse of Michael Myers. (1995)

1.15 Film: Ginger Snaps Unleashed. (2004) 2.45 BBC News. 4.30 Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV 7.50 CITV 8.25 Monk. 8.40 Horrid Henry 8.55 Planet Sketch (R) 9.10 Film: Yu-Gi-Oh! (2004) Animated adventure, with the voice of Dan Green. 10.50 Film: Nim's Island (2008) Premiere. Comedy adventure, starring Jodie Foster. 12.45 ITV News; Weather. 1.00 Live FA Cup First-Round Draw. Coverage from Wembley Stadium. 3.00 The X Factor. (R) 4.35 Downton Abbey (R) 5.30 The Betty Driver Story (R)

6.00 Regional Programmes.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 Harry Hill's TV Burp. A comic review of the week's small-screen highlights. (R)

7.00 The Cube. New series.

8.00 The X Factor. The results, with performances by Cher Lloyd and Nicole Scherzinger.

9.00 Downton Abbey. A new development stuns the family.

10.15 That Sunday Night Show. With Louie Spence and Harry Redknapp.

10.55 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Someone's Daughter, Someone's Son. The family of murdered teenager Leanne Tiernan. Last in the series. (R)

12.00 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the seventh round of fixtures. 12.55 The Zone. Shopping and interactive gaming. 3.00 ITV News Headlines 3.05 Motorsport UK. 3.30 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.10 The Great London Swim. 7.05 Channel 4 Presents – Nathan Stephens: "The Sharp End." (R) 7.30 T4: One Tree Hill. (R) 8.25 T4: Hollyoaks. 10.55 T4: Professor Green Unseen. 11.25 T4: Live and Lost Rizzle Kicks. 11.55 T4: In Time: T4 Movie Special. 12.10 T4: Florence and the Machine: The T4 Interview. 12.20 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 12.50 T4: Shipwrecked: The Island. 1.50 Film: Picture Perfect. (1997) Romantic comedy, with Jennifer Aniston and Jay Mohr. 3.50 T4: The Simpsons (R) 4.20 Kirstie's Handmade Britain (R) 5.25 Deal or No Deal: Banksteins Monsters.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

6.55 The Political Slot.

7.00 Grand Designs. A London home large enough to contain a sauna, spa and dance floor. (R)

8.00 River Cottage Veg. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall's vegetable patch is invaded by slugs.

9.00 The Secret Millionaire. Inventor Edward Douglas-Miller goes undercover in Norwich.

10.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. New series.

11.05 Derren Brown: The Gameshow. (R)

12.10 American Football Live. Philadelphia Eagles v Dallas Cowboys (Kick-off 1.20am). 4.10 Freesports on 4. 4.30 [illegible] Modern Pastimes. (R) 4.55 Grudge Match (R) 5.05 Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Body Building (R) 5.30 Scrapheap Challenge. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake!: (GMT) Peppa Pig. 6.05 Fifi and the Flowertots (R) 6.15 Fireman Sam (R) 6.30 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs (R) 6.45 Mio Mao (R) 6.55 Castle Farm (R) 7.10 Igam Ogam (R) 7.20 Rhubarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.30 The Save-Ums! (R) 7.45 Make Way for Noddy (R) 7.55 Hana's Helpline. (R) 8.10 Little Princess (R) 8.20 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky (R) 8.35 Angelina Ballerina 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Olivia (R) 9.10 The Mr Men Show (R) 9.25 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.35 Animal Families (R) 10.05 How Do They Do It? (R) 10.35 Great South Run Live. 12.30 Inside Hollywood. 12.50 Big Brother. (R) 1.55 Ice Road Truckers: Deadliest Roads (R) 2.55 Film: The Canterville Ghost (1996) Supernatural comedy starring Patrick Stewart. 4.35 Film: The Ghost of Greville Lodge. (2000) Family drama, starring George Cole.

6.10 FILM: Cats & Dogs. (2001) Comedy starring Jeff Goldblum.

8.00 [illegible] Weekend.

8.05 Paul Merton's Adventures. (R)

9.00 Big Brother.

10.00 FILM: Kiss of the Dragon. (2001) Martial arts adventure, starring Jet Li.

11.55 UFC 99.

12.55 SuperCasino. 3.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.30 Chinese Food in Minutes (R) 3.40 FBI Files. (R) 4.30 Hana's Helpline. (R) 4.40 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 4.55 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2

3.45 The Xtra Factor 4.45 Peter Andre: My Life 5.50 Film: You've Got Mail (1998) 8.05 The Planet's Funniest Animals 8.25 [illegible] 9.00 The Xtra Factor. Including an interview with the eliminated act. 10.15 The Only Way Is Essex 11.00 Models, [illegible] and Mayhem

ITV3

3.15 Film: Murder on the Orient Express (1974) 5.50 Fisherman's Friends 6.50 The Darling Buds of May 8.00 Film: Frantic (1988). Kidnap thriller, starring Harrison Ford. 11.20 Hornblower

ITV4

3.50 Film: For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) 7.00 Great South Run Highlights 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: Unforgiven (1992) 11.30 Film: The Blues Brothers (1980)

BBC THREE

7.00 (GMT) Formula 1: The Indian Grand Prix Highlights 8.00 World's Strictest Parents: Top 10 Tantrums 9.00 Gavin & Stacey 10.00 The Fades 11.00 Family Guy 11.45 American Dad!

BBC FOUR

7.00 (GMT) The Story of British Pathe 8.00 The Viking Sagas 9.00 Tales from the National Parks. Off-road vehicles cause anger in the Peak District. 10.00 Film: Cloud 9 (2008) 11.25 Tales from the National Parks.

E4

3.25 Supersize vs Superskinny 4.20 Make It or Break It 5.20 Smallville 6.20 Film: Dr Dolittle (1998) 8.00 Film: X-Men (2000) 10.00 Misfits 11.00 Comedy Lab: Mr & Mrs Hobby Holt Hot Show 11.30 Deal Set

FILM4

2.50 Murder Most Foul (1964) 4.35 The Thief of Bagdad (1940) 6.30 Cutthroat Island (1995) 9.00 The Negotiator (1998) 11.30 The 51st State (2001)

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the pulse

Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Filthy Rotten Scoundrels. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 The Cube. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Inside Out; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Cops Behaving Badly – Panorama. 9.00 Young Apprentice. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 A Question of Sport. 11.05 John Bishop's Britain. (R) 11.50 The Graham Norton Show. (R) 12.35 Weatherview. 12.40 Sign Zone: The Great British Bake Off Masterclass. (R) 2.10 Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. (R) 3.10 Real History of Britain. (R) 4.10 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 The New Pink Panther Show. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 1.45 Royal Upstairs Downstairs. (R) 2.15 Weakest Link. 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Flog It! 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. (R) 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing – It Takes Two. 7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. 8.00 University Challenge. 8.30 Baking Made Easy. (R) 9.00 Origins of Us. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Film: Halloween: Resurrection. (2002) 12.45 Film: Ginger Snaps Back: The Beginning. (2004). 2.15 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone. (R)

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 There's No Taste Like Home. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chefs. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Little England. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Doc Martin. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Exposure: Briffa. 11.35 That Sunday Night Show. (R) 12.05 Wildlife Patrol. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Champions League Weekly. 3.00 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV News.

Channel 4 6.05 Sarah Mini. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Undercover Boss USA. (R) 9.50 Gok's Clothes Roadshow: Get the Look for Less. (R) 10.55 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Country House Rescue. (R) 1.05 Film: Wake of the Red Witch. (1948) Romantic seafaring adventure, starring John Wayne and Gail Russell. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal: Bankenstein's Monsters. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Brave New World with Stephen Hawking. 9.00 Attack of the Trip Advisors. 10.00 Top Boy. 11.10 The Simpsons. (R) 11.40 Pete Versus Life. (R) 12.10 Random Acts. 12.15 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 1.10 Late Night Poker. 2.05 Film: Guide. (1965) Romantic Bollywood musical, starring Dev Anand and Waheeda Rehman. 5.10 Drifting. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.05 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Big Brother. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Miami. (R) 3.15 Film: Elevator Girl. (2010) 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Celebrity Wish List; 5 News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show. A supercharge jet pack, hi-tech bags and soundbar speakers; 5 News at 9. 9.00 New Hotel Inspector. 10.00 Big Brother. 11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Side. 12.00 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.55 SuperCasino. 4.05 The Family Recipe. (R) 4.10 Grey's Anatomy. 4.55 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Filthy Rotten Scoundrels. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 The Cube. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 Death in Paradise. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather; National Lottery Update. 10.35 Imagine: Grayson Perry and the Tomb of the Unknown Craftsman. 11.35 Film: The Private Lives of Pippa Lee. (2009) Premiere. Drama, starring Robin Wright. 1.10 Weatherview. 1.15 Sign Zone: The Queen's Palaces. (R) 2.15 Andrew Marr's Megacities. (R) 3.15 History Cold Case. (R) 4.15 Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. (R) 4.45 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 The New Pink Panther Show. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 1.45 Royal Upstairs Downstairs. (R) 2.15 Weakest Link. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Flog It! 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. (R) 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing — It Takes Two. 7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. 8.00 James May's Man Lab. 9.00 The Most Courageous Raid of WWII. 10.00 Later Live — with Jools Holland. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Louis Theroux: America's Most Dangerous Pets. (R) 12.20 Dynamo. (R) 1.00 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone. (R)

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 There's No Taste Like Home. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chefs. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Mayday Mayday. 8.00 High Stakes. 9.00 71 Degrees North. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 In the Line of Fire. (R) 11.35 Joanna Lumley's Greek Odyssey. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 3.05 Kojak. (R) 4.00 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Undercover Boss USA. (R) 9.55 Gok's Clothes Roadshow: Get the Look for Less. (R) 10.55 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Channel 4 Presents — Lee Pearson 'The Dancer.' (R) 12.10 Country House Rescue. (R) 1.10 Film: The Ghost and Mrs Muir. (1947) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal: Bankenstein's Monsters. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 The Food Hospital. 9.00 Jamie's Great Britain. 10.00 Top Boy. 11.05 Random Acts. 11.10 True Blood. 12.25 UK & Ireland Poker Tour. 1.20 Sailing. 1.45 Beach Volleyball. 2.40 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 3.05 That Paralympic Show. (R) 3.30 Commonwealth Mountain and Ultra Distance Championships. (R) 4.25 The Great London Swim. (R) 5.15 Scrapheap Challenge. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.05 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Big Brother. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Miami. (R) 3.15 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.20 Film: Lone Rider. (2008) Western, starring Lou Diamond Phillips. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Real Food Family Cook Off; 5 News Update. 8.00 Superior Interiors with Kelly Hoppen; 5 News Update. 9.00 CSI: Miami. 10.00 Big Brother. 11.00 Film: Flatliners. (1990) Supernatural thriller, starring Kiefer Sutherland. 1.05 SuperCasino. 4.00 The Family Recipe. (R) 4.10 The Hotel Inspector. (R) 4.55 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 House Doctor. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Filthy Rotten Scoundrels. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 The Cube. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Waterloo Road; BBC News; Regional News. 8.30 The Impressions Show with Culshaw and Stephenson. 9.00 Frozen Planet. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Ask Rhod Gilbert. 11.20 Film 2011 with Claudia Winkleman; National Lottery Update. 12.00 Film: Dead Ringers. (1988) 1.50 Weatherview. 1.55 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 2.25 Planet Dinosaur. (R) 2.55 Made in Britain. (R) 3.55 Real History of Britain. (R) 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Daily Politics. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 The Hairy Bakers. (R) 1.45 Royal Upstairs Downstairs. (R) 2.15 Weakest Link. 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Flog It! 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. (R) 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing – It Takes Two. 7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. 8.00 Great British Food Revival. 9.00 Secret Pakistan. 10.00 Rab C Nesbitt. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 James May's Man Lab. (R) 12.20 Dynamo. (R) 1.00 BBC News. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone. (R)

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 There's No Taste Like Home. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chefs. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Live UEFA Champions League. Villarreal v Manchester City (Kick-off 7.45pm). 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 UEFA Champions League: Extra Time. 11.35 Laddette to Lady Australia. (R) 12.30 The Zone. Shopping and interactive gaming; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Film: The Nun's Story. (1959) Drama, starring Audrey Hepburn. 5.10 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Undercover Boss USA. 9.55 Gok's Clothes Roadshow: Get the Look for Less. (R) 10.55 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Country House Rescue. (R) 1.05 Film: King Solomon's Mines. (1950) 3.05 Channel 4 Presents – Oscar Pistorius 'Hard Strong' (R) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal: Bankenstein's Monsters. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Kirstie's Handmade Britain. Kirstie Allsopp enters a needlework competition. 9.00 Grand Designs. 10.00 Top Boy. 11.05 Steve Jobs: Changed the World. 12.10 Random Acts. 12.15 Music on 4: On Track. 12.50 Music on 4: 4Play: Summer Camp. 1.05 Music on 4: The Album Chart Show: Spotlight. 1.15 Film: O'Horten. (2007) Premiere. Comedy. 2.45 Hello Panda. (R) 3.20 Film: Animal Farm. (1955) 4.30 Willie's Chocolate Revolution. (R) 5.25 Countdown.

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.05 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Big Brother. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Miami. (R) 3.10 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.20 Film: Aces 'N' Eights. (2008) 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Highland Emergency; 5 News Update. 8.00 Dangerous Drivers' School; 5 News at 9. 9.00 Paul Merton's Adventures. 10.00 Big Brother. 11.00 Banged Up Abroad. 12.00 Poker: The Big Game. 12.55 SuperCasino. 4.00 The Family Recipe. (R) 4.10 The Gadget Show. (R) 5.00 County Secrets. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Filthy Rotten Scoundrels. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 The Cube. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Britain on the Fiddle. 9.00 Crimewatch. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Crimewatch Update. 10.45 Question Time. 11.45 This Week. 12.30 Holiday Weatherview. 12.35 Sign Zone: Cops Behaving Badly — Panorama. (R) 1.05 Countryfile. (R) 2.05 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 3.05 Real History of Britain. (R) 4.05 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 The New Pink Panther Show. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 1.45 Royal Upstairs Downstairs. (R) 2.15 Weakest Link. (R) 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Flog It! 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. (R) 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing — It Takes Two. 7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. 8.00 Great British Food Revival. 9.00 Film: Life in a Day. (2011) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Burnistoun. 11.50 Women! 12.25 Dynamo. (R) 1.05 BBC News. 3.35 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone. (R)

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 There's No Taste Like Home. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chefs. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 A Failing System: Tonight. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Joanna Lumley's Greek Odyssey. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: James Corden. (R) 11.35 71 Degrees North. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 A Failing System: Tonight. (R) 3.00 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV News.

Channel 4 6.10 Channel 4 Presents — Oscar Pistorius 'Blade Runner.' The Paralympic gold medallist explains his motivations. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Undercover Boss USA. 9.55 Gok's Clothes Roadshow: Get the Look for Less. (R) 10.55 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Country House Rescue. (R) 1.10 River Cottage Bites. (R) 1.15 Film: Vice Versa. (1988) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal: Bankenstein's Monsters. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Beeny's Restoration Nightmare. 9.00 Educating Essex. 10.00 Top Boy. 11.05 Random Acts. 11.10 The Secret Millionaire. (R) 12.15 The Film Show. 12.50 Music on 4: Professor Green Unseen: After Hours. 1.15 Music on 4: Inside SBTV: From Bedroom to Boardroom. (R) 1.40 Music on 4: 4Play: Mona. (R) 1.55 Embarrassing Bodies. (R) 2.50 Accidentally on Purpose. (R) 3.15 Southland. 4.05 Unreported World. (R) 4.30 Willie's Chocolate Revolution. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.05 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Big Brother. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Miami. (R) 3.15 Film: Chaos. (2010) 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Live UEFA Europa League Football. Fulham v Wisla Krakow (Kick-off 8.05pm). 10.10 Big Brother. 11.10 Big Brother's Bit on the Side. 12.10 SuperCasino. 4.05 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 4.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 4.35 HouseBusters. (R) 5.00 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Filthy Rotten Scoundrels. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; (R) BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 The Cube. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking; BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 A Question of Sport. (R) 9.00 Have I Got News for You. 9.30 Live at the Apollo. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Graham Norton Show. 11.20 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.30 Film: Rumble in the Bronx. (1995) 12.55 Weatherview. 1.00 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) 2.00 Town with Nicholas Crane. (R) 3.00 Real History of Britain. (R) 4.00 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 The Pink Panther Show. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Diagnosis Murder. (R) 1.45 Royal Upstairs Downstairs. (R) 2.15 Weakest Link. 3.00 Wanted Down Under. (R) 3.45 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.30 Flog It! 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. (R) 6.00 Eggheads. (R) 6.30 Strictly Come Dancing – It Takes Two. 7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. 8.00 Mastermind. 8.30 Autumnwatch Live. 9.30 Autumnwatch Unsprung. 10.00 QI. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Review Show. 11.45 Weather. 11.50 Later with Jools Holland. 12.55 Laughs in the Park. (R) 1.55 BBC News. 3.30 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.50 Regional Weather. 4.00 There's No Taste Like Home. 5.00 Best Dish: The Chefs. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Wild Britain with Ray Mears. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Susan Boyle: An Unlikely Superstar. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Bowfinger. (1999) 12.20 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.25 Film: New York Minute. (2004) 3.55 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 Freshly Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 8.55 Undercover Boss USA. 9.55 Gok's Clothes Roadshow: Get the Look for Less. (R) 10.55 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Country House Rescue. (R) 1.05 River Cottage Bites. (R) 1.20 Film: Carry On Doctor. (1967) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal: Bankenstein's Monsters. 5.00 Four in a Bed. 5.30 Come Dine with Me. 6.00 The Simpsons. 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.30 Unreported World. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Come Dine with Me. 9.00 Derren Brown: The Guilt Trip. 10.00 Pete Versus Life. 10.35 8 Out of 10 Cats. 11.10 Stand Up for the Week. 12.00 Random Acts. 12.05 Film: Choke. (2008) Premiere. Comedy drama, with Sam Rockwell. 1.45 Music on 4: On Track. (R) 2.10 My Name Is Earl. (R) 2.35 Without a Trace. 3.20 St Elsewhere. (R) 4.10 Reasons to Be Cheerful. (R) 4.20 Willie's Chocolate Revolution. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R) 5.55 TBA.

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.05 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Big Brother. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: Miami. (R) 3.10 The Family Recipe. (R) 3.15 Film: Murder 101. (2006) 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 OK! TV. 7.00 5 News at 7. 7.30 Fifth Gear; 5 News Update. 8.00 Ice Road Truckers: Deadliest Roads; 5 News at 9. 9.00 Big Brother: Live Eviction. 10.30 Tamara Ecclestone: Billion $$ Girl. 11.30 Big Brother's Bit on the Side. 12.15 SuperCasino. 4.05 Motorsport Mundial. 4.30 Fifth Gear. (R) 4.55 County Secrets. (R) 5.10 House Doctor. (R)

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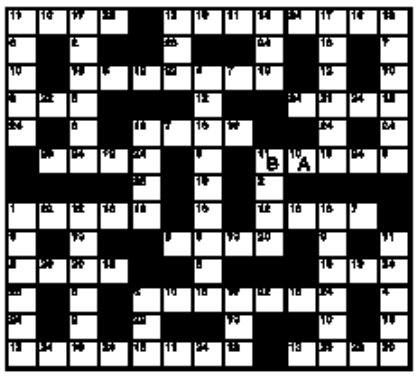
Brain Gym

No.140

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

F	N	V	C	O	I	Q	D	L	W	J	E	K
R	G	T	P	B	S	X	Y	H	U	Z	A	M

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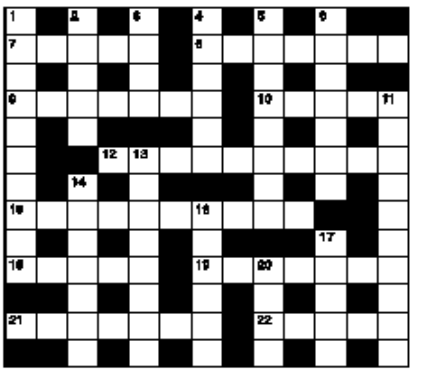
Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. They shouldn't be drunk, for example, when doctors are around (5)
8. Modified a date pod, perhaps (7)
9. Cheder, made by police (7)
10. Sally followed a direction to arm (5)
12. A spring located in a good position (4 6)
15. A bottle in the last war (10)
18. After a tonic, people may sing it (3 2)
19. Ran site in a more disagreeable way (7)
21. Does it foreshadow an empty decanter? (7)
22. A match for a god class (5)

Down

1. People of an earlier age roughly dream aside (10)
2. Increases the rent? (5)
3. Makes second hand (4)
4. It's prepared to hang (6)
5. Change to a lower action in Europe (8)
6. Dusty stem (7)
11. Provide man in the street (10)
13. His work as an artist is deeply impressive (8)
14. Plead for fairy tales? (7)
16. Strip of Dundee origin (6)
17. It's a crash out (5)
20. Keep a broken vase (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Sound (5)
8. Slaughter (7)
9. Dress (7)
10. Punitive (5)
12. Inability (10)
15. Priceless (10)
18. Prongs (5)
19. Prop (7)
21. Infest (7)
22. Worth (5)

Down

1. Opponent (10)
2. Nimble (5)
3. Query (4)
4. Division (6)
5. Suggestion (8)
6. Artist (7)
11. Printed matter (10)
13. False (8)
14. Gospel (7)
16. Away (6)
17. Robust (5)
20. Scheme (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS.
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Football, 8 Lad, 10 Gardenforce, 11 Gymnasia, 12 Tiger, 13 Slipper, 15 Adored, 17 Cloned, 18 Cantata, 20 Moral battle, 22 True, 23 Resistant. Down: 2 Sag, 3 Always, 4 Oxford, 5 Chanted, 6 Chandelier, 7 Lipstick, 10 Rammunition, 11 Cheesecake, 14 All wise, 16 Stolen, 19 Above, 21 Lad. QUICK - Across: 1 Revolution, 8 Pine, 10 Prohibitive, 11 Pneumonia, 12 Spell, 15 Trouble, 16 Chanel, 17 Solve, 18 Points, 20 Alternative, 22 Six, 23 Pneumatic. Down: 2 Lag, 3 Twice, 4 Sullen, 5 Stanza, 6 Fundamental, 7 Mistletoe, 10 Pneumatic, 11 Pneumatic, 14 Sketch, 16 Phone, 19 Stairs, 21 Sit.

Sudoku

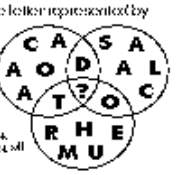
Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

			3		5	2		
7					4			
	3	5				4	1	9
5		6		2				
	7				1		3	
				8		9		5
8	1	9			2	5	7	
	6		8					4
		4	6			3	9	

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS :-

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is L. Sailing, sequence, bathing all of course.

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The top property guide for Walsall, Brownhills, Aldridge, Willenhall and Bloxwich

First time buyers enjoy new-build

walsallchronicle
@expressandstar.co.uk

FIRST-time buyers Russell Small and Rebecca Holton have secured a fabulous future as a family by putting down roots at Frampton View.

The young couple are happily settling into life at Taylor Wimpey's in-demand development in Rushall, Walsall, after a whirlwind couple of years.

Both had been studying at Oxford Brookes University, with Rebecca, aged 23, graduating from her nursing degree in 2009.

Family life – Russell, Rebecca and baby Harry love the new home

Her 24-year-old husband graduated from his motorsport technology course 12 months later.

The happy couple then became homeowners for the first time when they relocated from Oxford to Frampton View in August 2011, three weeks before the arrival of their first child, Harry.

"It has been a busy time, but we're really pleased with the way things have worked out for us," says Russell, who has also started out on the first rung of the career ladder as design engineer at ADT Fire and Security, in Halesowen.

"To have such a nice family home in a place that's great to bring up children is just what we wanted.

I'm originally from Birmingham, but my brother lives in Rushall and so I knew through him how good the area is.

Secure

"The schools have good reputations locally, and something I have always noticed when I've visited the area is how friendly the people are."

As first-time buyers, Russell and Rebecca weren't sure if they could afford a three-bedroom new-build house in a great location, but after visiting Frampton View they were overjoyed to find their dream home was within their reach.

They took advantage of the assistance on offer from the leading housebuilder for buyers in all circumstances which allowed them to secure a three-bedroom Barwell semi-detached home.

"This was a massive help," says Russell Holton.

"Without Taylor Wimpey, we simply wouldn't have been able to get the house we wanted.

"We had looked at two-bedroom houses, but knew it made more sense to go for a three-bedroom design because we would like another child one day.

"With the Barwell, we have plenty of room, a really good plot size and have a home that's excellent value for money."

Taylor Wimpey offers first-time buyers like Russell and Rebecca the opportunity to step on the property ladder with ease at Frampton View, through the fantastic Government-backed FirstBuy initiative.

Subject to status, FirstBuy customers require only a five per cent deposit and a 75 per cent loan-to-value mortgage, with Taylor Wimpey and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) providing a 20 per cent loan which is repayable at the end of the 25-year mortgage term or when the property is sold on.

To be eligible for the scheme, first-time buyers must have a combined household income below £60,000.

Frampton View is now just three homes away from being a complete sell-out, with property-seekers urged to hurry to choose from a final trio of three-bedroom semi-detached Croxton houses, priced from only £153,995.

This spacious home design includes a generous living/dining room opening through French doors to the private rear garden, a contemporary fitted kitchen and a handy guest cloakroom off the entrance hallway.

Upstairs, the landing leads to three bedrooms and a main bathroom, while two allocated parking spaces can be found outside.

Frampton View enjoys an excellent location in Rushall that's ideal for young, growing families and is close to local schools, shops and pubs.

Walsall town centre, located two miles to the south of the Frampton View development, offers a wider selection of shops, cafes and restaurants, plus a variety of schools for children of all ages and the well-regarded Walsall College.

Rebecca, Russell and their son Harry with Taylor Wimpey sales executive Angie Ryan at Frampton View, Rushall

A £1 billion regeneration, due for completion in 2015, includes the stylish Waterfront canal-side project, while the town is already home to numerous sports clubs and facilities, plus Crown Wharf Shopping Park, with its array of leading high street shops.

Transport

IKEA Wednesbury is less than five miles from the development.

Delightful countryside lies just to the north of Frampton View, with pleasant walks, particularly along the Rushall Canal, which forms a branch of the historic Birmingham Canal Navigations.

A wealth of employment and further leisure opportunities is just minutes from home via Rushall's excellent transport links – including the M6 and Walsall railway station for services to Birmingham New Street and Wolverhampton.

The Taylor Wimpey development at Frampton View is just 10 miles from Birmingham city centre, nine miles from Cannock and Wolverhampton and eight miles from the cathedral city of Lichfield.

To find out more about the final three homes available, property-seekers can visit the Sales Centre and showhomes, located off Station Road, Rushall, and open Thursday to Monday from 11am to 5pm.

The sales executive team can be contacted on 0845 026 5512.

Further information on Taylor Wimpey developments across the region is available by visiting www.taylorwimpey.co.uk or by calling 01543 496700.

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Cannock Chase Landlords Forum
Cannock Chase Council
Thursday 3rd November 2011, 7pm
Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock
If you are a Landlord with property to rent in the Cannock Chase Area, why not attend the next meeting of the Landlords Forum?
Guest Speakers for the evening are:
HM Revenues & Customs - Business Education and Support Team
Taxation on Income from Private Rented Property
Mandy Bygrave - National Landlords Association (NLA) Representative
The challenges facing the private rented sector today
Eddie Langley - Principal Environmental Health Officer (Private Rented Sector)
Cold Homes/Insulation and Gas Safety
David Willmore Housing Benefit Manager -
Update on forthcoming changes to Housing Benefit/Local Housing Allowance
For more information contact
Julie Cope/Dee Kalirai tel: 01543 462621
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www.chasehousing.co.uk

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Reduced price of £179,995 for four-bed home

This property in Foxhill Close, a quiet cul-de-sac near Heath Hayes, has been extended in recent times

The kitchen has a Belfast sink, plus wall and base units

The rear garden has a patio with mature trees and shrubs

AN extended four-bedroom detached house in Foxhill Close, Heath Hayes, Cannock, has been reduced to £179,995.

The property is situated in a quiet cul-de-sac close to Heath Hayes village, with accommodation including hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, guest WC, conservatory, sitting room with bar area and self contained bedroom/study with en suite shower room.

Dining

It further benefits from three more bedrooms, bathroom, gas central heating, upvc double-glazed windows and doors, front and rear doors and driveway providing of road parking leading to a single garage.

The lounge, 15ft 4in by 12ft has a feature Adam-style fireplace surround incorporating a flame-effect gas fire, with access to the first-floor accommodation and dining room through French doors.

The dining room – 9ft 11in by 7ft 3in – has access to the conservatory, sitting room and kitchen which is fitted with wall and base units with wood trimmed work surfaces over, Belfast sink, built-in electric oven and gas hob with extractor hood over, integral fridge freezer and dishwasher.

An L-shaped utility room has wall and base units housing a washing machine and tumble dryer, with access to the WC, garage and rear garden.

A split level bedroom/study measuring 15ft 8in by 7ft 5in has access to the en suite shower room, while on the first floor are three bedrooms and a family bathroom with spa bath, low-level WC, pedestal wash basin and heated towel rail.

Outside, the front of the property has a driveway leading to a single garage, while at the rear is a patio area with the remainder laid to lawn with shrub borders.

For more details contact estate agent Webbs on 01543 468 811.

A sitting room, with bar area, is an unusual addition to this modern family home

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Number 48 Radnor Rise is described as an immaculate three-bedroom family home with a refitted bathroom

Three-bed family detached

A FAMILY home situated in the sought after location of Hednesford and within walking distance of local amenities and schools, is for sale at £159,995.

In brief the accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge/diner, conservatory, refitted kitchen, three bedrooms, refitted bathroom and garage – plus landscaped rear garden, off-road parking and benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing.

The kitchen incorporates a range of cream high gloss wall and base units with solid wooden work surfaces over, white double sink and drainer, space for cooker, washing machine and fridge freezer, under stairs storage cupboard, door into garage and another into the rear garden and patio area.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with modern square freestanding bath with chrome feet, mixer tap and power shower over, wall-mounted wash hand basin and low-level WC.

Outside to the front is a large block paved driveway with parking for several cars, brick-built corner planter and boundary wall and access to the garage.

At the rear is a patio area with gated steps and wall leading up to the main garden, decked seating area, oval shaped lawn and garden shed.

For more details contact Bromleys on 01543 878 111.

Versatile bungalow is on the market in Wedges Mills area

This two/three bedroom bungalow in Wood Lane, Wedges Mills, is on the market for offers based on £209,950

A TWO/three bedroom detached bungalow in Wood Lane, Wedges Mills, is for sale with a price guide of £209,950.

Early inspection is recommended on the property, which has gas central heating and double glazing throughout.

The entrance hallway with storeroom/study leads to the lounge – 10ft 10in by 10ft 10in – with feature fire surround, and the kitchen measuring 10ft 10in by 7ft 11in and equipped with a range of wall and base mounted units, work surfaces over, sink and drainer unit with mixer tap over, integrated oven and hob, integrated fridge and space for appliances.

The dining room/bedroom three is 10ft 11in by 10ft 10in, and there are two other bedrooms and bathroom with bath, wash hand basin and WC.

Outside is an enclosed garden to the rear with lawn, borders and patio area, additional parking to the side and rear and a driveway and of road parking to the front.

For more details contact estate agent Jayman on 01543 505566.

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Walsall Road, Bridgtown
Office Units TO LET
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Whitehouse Court
Broad Street, Bridgtown
Retail Units TO LET
Offices / small niche retail uses. Units available now from 300 sqft to 600 sqft. Just off A34 / A5 and M6 toll J7, dedicated car parking. Attractive large shop windows, flexible lease terms.

Towers Business Park
Wheelhouse Road, Rugeley
Industrial Units TO LET
Modern Industrial / warehouse units to let from 1,500 sqft. Available on flexible lease terms. Roller shutters / parking / wc's etc. Prominent location on the A51 near Rugeley.

Kimberley Business Park
Redbrook Lane, Rugeley
Industrial Units TO LET
Modern Industrial / warehouse units to let from 2,000 sqft. Available on flexible lease terms. Roller shutter / parking / wc's and ancillary office. Near Rugeley on an established business park.

Bridgtown Business Centre
North Street, Bridgtown
Retail Units TO LET
Offices / small niche retail uses. Units available now from 300 sqft to 600 sqft. Just off A34 / A5 and M6 toll J7, dedicated car parking. Flexible lease terms.

Birch Business Park
Progress Drive, Bridgtown
Industrial Units TO LET
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£390,000

Gorsey Lane

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★ Second Lounge
★ Large Family/ Play Room
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★ Kitchen and Utility
★ Downstairs WC
★ Garage
★ Large garden ★

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£89,950

Aldis Road, Pleck, Walsall

★ Hall
★ Porch
★ Lounge
★ Kitchen
★ 2 Bedrooms
★ Bathroom
★ Utility
★ Verandah
★ Garden

£84,950

Station Place

★ Porch ★ Hall ★ Lounge ★ Dining Room ★ Kitchen ★ Downstairs WC ★ Shower Room

£74,950

Coalway Road

★ Porch
★ Lounge
★ Kitchen ★ Landing
★ 3 Bedrooms

£595 pcm

Severn Road

★ Porch ★ Hallway
★ Lounge ★ Kitchen
★ Covered Storage Area
★ Extension Room
★ Downstairs WC

£299,950

Stoney Lane, Bloxwich

★ 4 Bedroom detached home ★ Double Glazing ★ Gas Central Heating (W/S) ★ Porch ★ Hallway ★ Lounge ★ Dining Room ★ Study ★ Downstairs WC ★ Family Room ★ Utility Room ★ Kitchen ★ Bathroom ★ Viewing Highly Recommended ★ No Upward Chain

£159,950

Stoney Lane

★ Porch ★ Hall ★ Lounge ★ Dining Room ★ Kitchen ★ Utility Area ★ Downstairs WC

£114,950

Creswell Crescent

★ Hall ★ Lounge ★ Dining Room ★ Kitchen ★ Bathroom ★ Loft Space ★ Garden

£499,950

Stafford Road, Bloxwich

★ Detached ★ Porch ★ Hall ★ Lounge ★ Dining Room ★ Breakfast Kitchen ★ Utility ★ Inner Lobby ★ Downstairs shower room ★ 3 Bedrooms ★ Family Bathroom ★ Annex with:- ★ living/Dining area ★ Annex Kitchen ★ 2 Bedrooms ★ 2 En-suites ★ Garage ★ Large Rear Garden ★ No Chain ★ Viewing Highly Recommended

£380,000

Tensing, Long Lane, Essington

★ 4 Bedroom detached bungalow ★ one bedroom self contained bungalow attached ★ Gas Central Heating ★ Double Glazing ★ Porch ★ Hallway ★ Lounge ★ Bathroom ★ Dining Room/Sitting Room ★ Newly Re-Fitted Kitchen ★ Utility ★ Double Garage ★ Front & Side Garden ★ Rear Garden

£115,000

Park Street

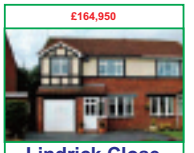
★ Lounge
★ Kitchen/Diner
★ Downstairs Bathroom
★ Separate WC ★ 2 Bedrooms ★ Rear Garden

£120,000

Grenfell Road

★ Porch ★ Hallway
★ Lounge/Diner
★ Dining Area
★ Kitchen ★ Side Storage area ★ Utility

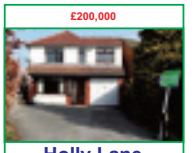
£164,950



Lindrick Close

★ Porch ★ Hallway ★ Lounge ★ Dining Room ★ Kitchen ★ Conservatory ★ En Suite

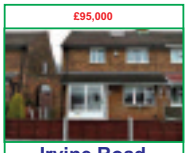
£200,000



Holly Lane

★ Porch ★ Hallway ★ Lounge ★ Family Room/Dining Area ★ Fitted Kitchen ★ Downstairs WC ★ Bathroom

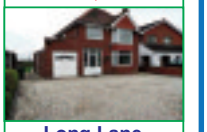
£95,000



Irvine Road

★ Hallway ★ Through Lounge ★ Kitchen ★ Side Entry ★ Utility ★ Bathroom ★ Loft Room (Bedroom 3)

£335,000



Long Lane

★ Approach ★ Hall ★ 2 Reception Rooms ★ Kitchen/Diner ★ Downstairs WC ★ 3 Bedrooms

£194,950

Broad Lane

★ Hallway ★ 2 Reception Rooms ★ Conservatory ★ Extended Kitchen/ Diner ★ Utility ★ Bathroom ★ Rear Garden

PUBLIC NOTICE

8 Wareham Close, Bloxwich

We advise that an offer has been made for the above property in the sum of **£68,000**. Any persons wishing to increase on this offer should notify the agents of their best offer prior to exchange of contracts. Agents: Whitemove Ltd., 9 Queens Parade, Bloxwich WS3 2EX tel: 01922 496664

£320,000

Bealeys Lane

★ Porch ★ Hallway
★ Lounge ★ Dining Room ★ Kitchen
★ Utility
★ Downstairs WC

£324,950

Stafford Road

★ Porch ★ Hallway
★ Study ★ Lounge
★ Dining Room ★ Refitted Kitchen ★ Downstairs Shower Room

£239,950

Alvaston Close

★ Porch ★ Entrance Hall ★ Lounge
★ Kitchen ★ 3 Bedrooms ★ Bathroom
★ Rear Garden

£85,000

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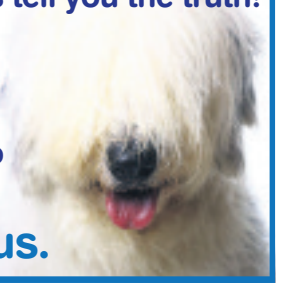

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- Semi-Detached Residence
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Detached Garage
- Large Rear Garden

OFFERS £105,000

ALEXANDRA ROAD, DARLASTON

- Mid Town House
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen with Hob and Oven
- Foregarden with Tarmacadam Driveway

OFFERS £104,950

IS YOUR PROPERTY LEASEHOLD?

Speak to the Leasehold expert in your area, Andrew Perrin MRICS, Chartered Surveyor, who will be able to help you purchase your Freehold - in the majority of cases making a significant saving. No fee charged if unable to achieve a saving - so you have nothing to lose!
It is well worth a call on
01922 627686
for your initial free advice or email
ap@fraser-wood.co.uk

ROSEWOOD DRIVE,COPPICE FARM

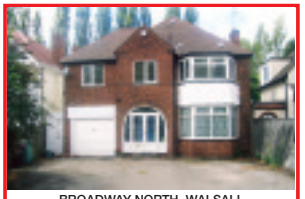
- Two Bedroomed Semi Detached
- Double Glazing and Gas Cental Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fore and Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- No Chain

OFFERS £99,950

COBDEN STREET, DARLASTON

- Immaculate Modern Terraced House
- Central Heating and Double Glazing
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen with Hob and Oven
- 1st Floor Bathroom and Downstairs WC
- Wider than average Rear Garden

OFFERS £92,500



BROADWAY NORTH, WALSALL

★ Extended Detached Property
★ Four/Five Bedrooms
★ Lounge/Dining Room
★ Kitchen & Sitting Room
★ Bathroom & En-Suite
★ Driveway & Rear Garden

£950pcm

CORONATION ROAD, GREAT BARR

★ Semi-Detached Property
★ Three Bedrooms
★ Lounge & Bathroom
★ Kitchen/Diner
★ Garden
★ DG & GCH

£535pcm

COXMOOR CLOSE, BLOXWICH

★ Modern Townhouse
★ Two Bedrooms
★ Lounge & Dining Room
★ Kitchen & Bathroom
★ Conservatory & Parking Space
★ DG & GCH

£525pcm

LINTHOUSE LANE, WEDNESFIELD

★ Semi- Detached
★ Three Bedrooms
★ Lounge & Bathroom
★ Kitchen/Dining Room
★ Garage & Gardens
★ DG & GCH

£500pcm

WILLOW AVENUE, WEDNESFIELD

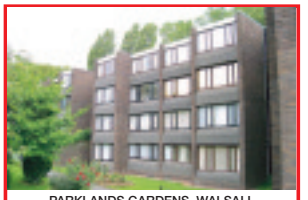
★ Semi-Detached House
★ Three Bedrooms
★ Lounge
★ Dining Kitchen
★ GCH & DG
★ Driveway

£495pcm

BEECHWOOD AVENUE, WEDNESFIELD

★ Semi-Detached
★ Three bedrooms
★ Kitchen/Dining Room
★ Bathroom
★ Lounge
★ Gardens
★ GCH
★ UPVC DG

£475pcm



PARKLANDS GARDENS, WALSALL

★ Ground Floor Flat
★ Kitchen & Lounge
★ Bathroom & Bedroom
★ Garage
★ Underfloor Heating & DG
★ One Bedroom

£435pcm

ELM COURT, WALSALL

★ Ground Floor Flat
★ One Bedroom
★ Lounge/Diner
★ Kitchen & Bathroom
★ Parking & DG
★ Electric Heating

£350pcm

CHURCH STREET, DARLASTON

★ First Floor flat
★ One Bedroom
★ Hallway & Bathroom
★ Kitchen & Lounge
★ Gas Central Heating
★ UPVC DG

£350pcm

60 High Road, Lane Head, Willenhall Tel: (01902) 367 367

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pauldubberley
the estate agent

Call Willenhall Branch on
01902 633323
or email: willenhall@pauldubberley.co.uk

Archer Road, Leamore

- Extended and improved end terrace
- 3 bedrooms
- UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
- Downstairs shower room / W.C

OFFERS AROUND: **£144,995**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Magness Crescent, Willenhall

- Extended Semi detached
- 3/4 bedrooms
- Re-fitted kitchen
- Re-fitted family bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: **£129,995**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Quilter Close, Walsall

- 3 Bedroom Terrace House
- No Upward Chain
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Part Central Heating

OFFERS AROUND: **£89,950**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Stubbington Close, Willenhall — NEW

- 3/4 Bedroom Detached House
- Extended and Much Improved
- Central Heating and Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: **£179,950**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Bloxwich Road South, Willenhall

- 9 x Brand new Apartments
- UPVC double & triple glazing
- Gas central heating
- Allocated parking spaces

OFFERS AROUND: **£75,000**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Chaucer Avenue, Willenhall

- Modern Semi-Detached
- 3 Good Bedrooms
- Deceptively Spacious
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: **£124,950**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Eaton Rise, Willenhall

- Extended Detached Bungalow
- Generous Corner Plot
- 3 Bedrooms
- Adjoining 33ft Annex

OFFERS AROUND: **£189,995**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Evans Street, Willenhall

- Well Presented Terrace House
- 3 Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Upvc Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: **£99,995**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Fenmere Close, Wolverhampton

- Extended, improved semi detached
- 4 bedrooms (master with shower cubicle)
- UPVC double glazing
- Gas central heating

OFFERS AROUND: **£169,995**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Finneywell Close, Bilston

- Extended Semi-Detached
- 3 Double Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Entrance Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£145,000**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Frost Street, Wolverhampton

- Spacious 3 Storey Town-House
- 3/4 Bedrooms
- Reception Hall
- 2 Reception Rooms

OFFERS AROUND: **£95,000**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Gipsy Lane, Willenhall

- Semi detached
- Three bedroom
- UPVC double glazing
- Gas central heating

OFFERS AROUND: **£109,995**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Goscote Place, Walsall

- Spacious Terrace Home
- 4 Bedrooms
- Upvc Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

OFFERS AROUND: **£110,000**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Granville Street, Willenhall

- Land for sale
- Planning permission for 4 x two bedroom flats
- One bedroom
- Close to Willenhall town

OFFERS AROUND: **£89,995**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Hopyard Road, Walsall

- Semi detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC double glazing

OFFERS AROUND: **£99,950**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Ingledew Close, Walsall — REDUCED

- Well Presented Semi-Detached
- 3 Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Upvc Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: **£124,950**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Kingfisher Grove, Willenhall

- Modern Detached House
- 4 Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Upvc Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: **£189,950**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Marston Street, Willenhall

- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached
- No Upward Chain
- Gas Central Heating
- Upvc double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: **£69,995**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Moxhull Close, Willenhall

- Well Presented Terrace House
- 3 Bedrooms
- Upvc Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: **£89,950**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Princethorpe Road, Willenhall

- 3 Bedroom Detached House
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- 15ft Conservatory
- 18ft Lounge

OFFERS AROUND: **£169,950**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Sneyd Lane, Essington

- Spacious & Extended Detached House
- Sought After Location
- 20ft Master Bedroom & 2 Further bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: **£234,950**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Great mortgage deals for first time buyers
Call and speak to our advisor today!

Victoria Street, Willenhall

- 3 Bedroom Terrace House
- Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain
- Wealth of Period Features

OFFERS AROUND: **£92,000**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Victoria Street, Willenhall

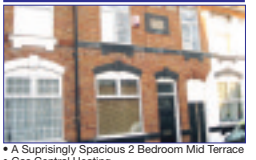
- Period Terrace House
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Deceptively Spacious
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: **£85,000**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Victoria Street, Willenhall — REDUCED

- 6 x Brand new homes
- Three bedrooms
- Lounge
- Fitted breakfast kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: **£92,950**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Cobden Street, Darlaston

- A Suprisingly Spacious 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (as specified)
- Dining Room with Ornate Cast Iron Fireplace

FIXED/ASKING: **£84,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Crawford Avenue, Darlaston

- 3 Bedroom Mid Townhouse
- Cul-de-Sac Location
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVc Double GLazing (where specified)

OFFERS AROUND: **£94,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

All Saints Road, Darlaston

- 3 Bedroom Mid Terrace
- Gas Central Heating (as specified)
- No Upward Chain!
- Lounge with cast Iron Fireplace

OFFERS AROUND: **£89,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Heathfield Lane West, Darlaston

- Spacious 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Opportunity to Improve Accommodation
- Almost Entirely Double Glazed
- Gas Central Heating

OFFERS AROUND: **£79,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Westbourne Road, Darlaston

- A Period 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)
- Reception Hall

OFFERS AROUND: **£119,995**
Viewing: 0121 505 3533

St Chads Road, Bilston

- Detached Bungalow
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Upvc Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: **£95,000**
Viewing: 01902 633323

Uplands Avenue, Willenhall — REDUCED

- Three Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- 10/15 minutes away from town centre with easy bus access
- Central Heating & Partial Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: **£120,000**
Viewing: 01902 633323

OFT Approved code

The Property Ombudsman SALES

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OR pauldubberley.mobi ON YOUR PHONE BROWSER

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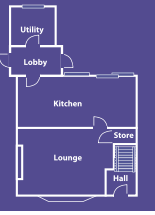

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NEW

COPPICE FARM
GREEN MEADOW ROAD

★ Splendidly appointed, extended, modern style detached residence
★ Corner plot position
★ Four bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ Superb well equipped breakfast kitchen
★ Utility room and downstairs guest cloakroom
★ Lovely established rear garden
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows

£230,000 OFFERS

NEW

NEW INVENTION
ESSINGTON ROAD

★ Superb modern style ground floor apartment
★ Two bedrooms
★ 14ft lounge
★ Fitted kitchen including oven and hob
★ Fitted bathroom with shower
★ Allocated parking space with side security gate
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Gas central heating

£97,950 OFFERS

NEW

SOLD STC

NEW INVENTION
FLETCHER ROAD

★ Extended traditional style semi in popular New Invention location
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ Double glazed windows
★ Extended kitchen with downstairs wc
★ Lounge and dining area
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ Off road parking
★ Internal viewing recommended

£110,000

REDUCED

SHORT HEATH
ANDREW DRIVE

★ Pleasant detached bungalow in popular location
★ Two bedrooms ★ Gas central heating
★ Double glazed windows
★ Spacious 18ft lounge with feature fireplace ★ Detached garage
★ Lovely established rear garden
★ No upward chain

Was £145,000 Now £130,000

COPPICE FARM
HILLBURY DRIVE

★ Superbly appointed extended detached property
★ Three bedrooms
★ En-suite shower room
★ Gas central heating, uPVC double glazed windows
★ Well equipped fitted dining kitchen with appliances
★ 14ft Front lounge with feature fireplace
★ 22ft Double length garage
★ Lovely enclosed gardens with local fields to the side

£169,950

WILLENHALL
LONGWOOD RISE

★ Pleasantly appointed semi detached property
★ Popular location off Stroud Avenue
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Superb refitted dining kitchen with appliances
★ Fitted bathroom with shower
★ Garage and ample parking

£134,950 NO CHAIN

NEW

SHORT HEATH
WESLEY ROAD

★ Deceptively spacious extended detached property
★ Four bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ UPVC double glazed conservatory
★ Fitted kitchen inc double oven, hob and dishwasher
★ Lovely established rear garden of generous size
★ Concrete print driveway
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing

£179,950 OFFERS

NEW

WILLENHALL
HARLECH ROAD

★ Extended semi-detached property in popular location
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ Double glazing
★ Lounge and dining/sitting room
★ Wet room/shower room
★ Upstairs bathroom with shower
★ Garage, carport and block paved driveway

£130,000 OFFERS NO CHAIN

NEW

WILLENHALL
CHESTER CLOSE

★ Extended traditional style bay fronted semi
★ Cul-de-sac position
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ Majority double glazed windows
★ Spacious 37ft extended lounge/dining room
★ Pleasant rear garden

£125,000 OFFERS NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
FARMHOUSE ROAD, CORNER BENTLEY LANE

★ Spacious modern style detached residence
★ Pleasantly appointed accommodation
★ Three bedrooms
★ Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
★ Lounge and dining room
★ Fitted kitchen inc oven and hob
★ Garage and off road parking
★ Gas central heating, double glazed windows

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £159,950

NEW

BLOXWICH
CHANTRY AVENUE

★ Extended and improved traditional style semi
★ Three bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ Superb uPVC conservatory
★ External uPVC double glazing
★ Gas central heating
★ Lovely established rear garden
★ Block paved driveway.

£110,000 OFFERS VIEWING ESSENTIAL

NEW

WALSALL
HADLEY WAY, BEECHDALE ESTATE

★ Much improved three bedroom semi
★ Superb fitted dining kitchen inc oven and hob
★ 15ft front lounge with feature fireplace
★ Smart fitted bathroom with shower
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Garage at rear
★ Ideal first time purchase

£88,000 OFFERS VIEWING ESSENTIAL

COPPICE FARM
COPPICE FARM WAY

★ Spacious extended modern style detached residence
★ Four bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ Large 18ft extended dining kitchen
★ Family bathroom with corner bath
★ Superb 24ft master bedroom
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £229,950

REDUCED

WILLENHALL
HIGH ROAD

★ Spacious modern style detached residence
★ Four bedrooms
★ En-suite shower room
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Lounge and separate dining room
★ Fitted breakfast kitchen with selected appliances
★ Block paved driveway

WAS £ 197,000 NOW £192,000

COPPICE FARM
BUTTERMERE GROVE

★ Extended modern style end town house
★ Four bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ Majority double glazed windows
★ Fitted dining kitchen with oven and hob
★ Utility room and downstairs wc
★ Garage and concrete print driveway
★ No related chain

£149,950

HADLEY HEATH
CROXLEY GARDENS

★ Extended modern style semi detached property
★ Popular Hadley Heath location
★ Cul-de-sac position
★ Three bedrooms
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Lounge and dining kitchen
★ Upstairs bathroom with shower
★ Garage and off road parking

£125,000 OFFERS

SHORT HEATH
BLOXWICH ROAD NORTH

★ Deceptively spacious and splendidly appointed traditional style semi
★ Three bedrooms ★ Two reception rooms
★ Gas central heating ★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Superb refitted bathroom with shower
★ Excellent refitted breakfast kitchen inc oven, hob and breakfast bar
★ Off road parking to the side ★ A lovely family home which must be viewed

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £129,995

WILLENHALL
DOVEDALE AVENUE

★ Traditional style semi detached property
★ In need of some modernisation
★ Excellent potential to improve
★ Three bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ Garage and parking
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ No upward chain

£110,000

WILLENHALL
MAGNESS CRESCENT

★ Pleasantly appointed semi in popular location ★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing ★ Three bedrooms
★ Refitted kitchen including oven, hob and dishwasher
★ Fitted bathroom with separate shower cubicle
★ Spacious L shaped lounge/dining room
★ Garage/playroom and block paved driveway

£122,500

WILLENHALL
BILSTON LANE

★ Spacious traditional style extended detached family residence
★ Pleasantly appointed accommodation
★ Four bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ Majority double glazing
★ Spacious extended dining kitchen
★ Generous rear garden with timber decking
★ Garage and driveway

£157,950

FEATHERSTONE
MONUMENT DRIVE, OFF CANNOCK ROAD

★ Brand new detached two bedroom bungalow
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Well equipped breakfast kitchen with appliances
★ 14ft rear lounge with french style doors
★ Fitted bathroom with separate shower cubicle
★ Detached garage
★ Block paved driveway
★ Viewing Recommended

£199,950 NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
FURZEBANK WAY, OFF STROUD AVENUE

★ Pleasant semi detached property in corner plot location
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Spacious 14ft rear lounge
★ Upstairs bathroom with shower
★ Garage at rear with driveway
★ Fitted kitchen
★ Internal viewing recommended

£124,995 NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
DIBBLE CLOSE, OFF STROUD AVENUE

★ Pleasantly appointed town house
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Superb refitted bathroom with 'P' shaped bath
★ UPVC double glazed conservatory
★ Spacious 20ft through lounge
★ Fitted breakfast kitchen with appliances

£98,000 OFFERS

SHORT HEATH
POOLES LANE

★ Deceptively spacious detached property
★ Three generous bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Two reception rooms
★ Refitted breakfast kitchen inc oven and hob
★ Garage and store room
★ Concrete print driveway

£184,500

WILLENHALL
PERTH ROAD, SUMMER HAYES ESTATE

★ Pleasant link detached bungalow in cul-de-sac position
★ Two bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ 18ft rear lounge
★ Garage and off road parking
★ Pleasant gardens to front and rear
★ Internal viewing strongly recommended

£139,950 NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
BROAD LANE NORTH

★ Extended semi detached property
★ Some internal modernisation required
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas radiator central heating
★ Majority UPVC double glazed windows
★ Two reception rooms
★ Generous enclosed rear garden
★ Viewing recommended

£150,000 NO CHAIN

SUMMER HAYES
EDINBURGH DRIVE

★ Pleasantly appointed dormer style bungalow
★ Extended to the side elevation
★ Three bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Superb UPVC double glazed conservatory
★ Extended fitted kitchen
★ Extended bathroom with separate shower cubicle

£139,950 OFFERS

WILLENHALL
LAKESIDE CLOSE

★ Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property
★ Three bedrooms
★ En-suite shower room
★ 18ft fitted dining kitchen inc oven and hob
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Enclosed rear garden
★ Ample off road parking

£152,950 OFFERS

WILLENHALL
PACKWOOD CLOSE

★ Superb modern style town house
★ One bedroom
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazing
★ Refitted kitchen with oven and hob
★ Refitted bathroom with shower
★ Allocated parking
★ Pleasant rear garden
★ Viewing Recommended

£86,250

WILLENHALL
FISHER STREET

★ Pleasantly appointed and terraced property
★ Convenient location near to Willenhall Town Centre
★ Three bedrooms
★ Two reception rooms
★ Gas central heating
★ Refitted kitchen including oven and hob
★ Bathroom with white suite
★ Ideal first time purchase

£79,950 NO CHAIN

WILLENHALL
8 BRUNSLOW CLOSE

★ Pleasant first floor maisonette in convenient location
★ Two bedrooms
★ Gas central heating
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Fitted bathroom with white suite and shower
★ Refitted kitchen
★ Allocated parking space

£67,950 OFFERS

WILLENHALL
GIPSY LANE

★ Conveniently located Victorian style terrace
★ Two bedrooms ★ Upstairs bathroom
★ Two reception rooms
★ UPVC double glazed windows
★ Ideal first time purchase or potential investment property
★ No upward chain
★ Internal viewing recommended

£64,950

www.skitts.net

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Wednesfield
01902 732324

Tipton
0121 520 2255

Wednesbury
0121 505 1818

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Willenhall Office
01902 634497

DIXONS
Estate Agents

DoingMore...

Shepherd Drive, Willenhall

£90,000 NEW

Two bedroom semi-detached situated on an extremely popular development in the Short Heath area of Willenhall. Comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom and no chain

Alton Avenue, Willenhall

£150,000 NEW

A stunning three bedroom semi-detached home which the current owner has lovingly refurbished and extended with absolutely no expense spared. Viewing essential

Poplar Close, Walsall

£80,000 NEW

Well presented three bedroom end-terraced home situated in popular cul-de-sac in Bentley. Having been extensively refitted and updated by the current owner a viewing is strongly advised.

John Riley Drive, New Invention

£130,000 NEW

Three bedroom semi-detached benefiting from front extension allowing for larger garage, entrance hall and a downstairs wc. The current owner has also made provision for a loft space.

Gurnard Close, Willenhall

£117,500 NEW

A well presented two bedroom semi-detached home situated on the ever popular "Coppice Farm" development. Having been improved and updated by the present owner a viewing comes highly recommended.

Morris Avenue, Walsall

£90,000 NEW

A three bedroom semi-detached home offering excellent potential and comprising lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen and bathroom. Viewing recommended

Blenheim Road, Willenhall

£160,000 NEW

An extended three/four bedroom semi-detached home situated on sought after "Summer Hayes" development. Benefiting from extended lounge/diner and also side annex with shower room and potential for lounge area.

Carrington Road, Wednesbury

£65,000 NEW

Three bedroom terrace comprising lounge, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, bathroom, rear garden and being sold with no chain

Keasden Grove, Willenhall

£165,000 NEW

A stunningly presented four bedroom, two bathroom semi-detached home situated on the sought after "Kingfisher" development. This would make a great family home. Landscaped rear gardens and concrete print frontage.

Thompson Close, Willenhall

£240,000 NEW

Stunningly presented five bedroom detached comprising lounge/diner, fitted kitchen/family room, conservatory, en suite, family bathroom, garage and rear garden. Viewing essential

Littleton Road, New Invention

£95,000 NEW

Well presented two bedroom terraced home situated on popular development in New Invention. Having been completely refurbished by the current owner and offered to the market with no upward chain.

Highgrove Close, Willenhall

£160,000 NEW

Well presented three bedroom link-detached home situated in a highly regarded cul-de-sac in New Invention, Offering two reception rooms, a garage and utility room. No chain

Watkins Road, Willenhall

£150,000 REDUCED

Stunningly presented extended three bedroom semi-detached home in sought after location of Short Heath, Willenhall. Having been extensively improved and extended. Viewing essential.

Pooles Lane, Willenhall

£140,000 REDUCED

Stunning three bedroom semi-detached comprising lounge, kitchen/family room, utility room, bathroom and rear garden. Viewing highly recommended

Montgomery Road, Walsall

£110,000 REDUCED

Extended three bedroom semi-detached home situated in the popular area of Bentley. Offering side annexe downstairs and extended third bedroom upstairs this is not the usual three bed semi.

Martin Drive, Willenhall

£110,000

A three bedroom semi-detached home situated in a popular location in Short Heath. In need of updating. Offered to the market with no upward chain.

Hollowcroft Road, Willenhall

£240,000

Extended four bedroom detached home situated on the sought after Coppice Farm development. Lounge, dining room, conservatory, utiility room, shower room, family bathroom and garage. Viewing essential

Hebden Grove, Willenhall

£240,000

Five bedroom detached on the Coppice Farm development. Having been extensively improved by the present owners including newly fitted kitchen. Benefiting from side extension adding further reception space and a fifth bedroom.

Uplands Avenue, Willenhall

£160,000

Two bedroom, two bathroom detached bungalow situated in cul-de-sac . Complete refurbishment programme to high standard including fully landscaped gardens and stunning master bedroom suite with dressing area and en-suite.

Fivefields Road, Willenhall

£350,000 REDUCED

Four bedroom detached on an exclusive road in Willenhall. Potential to extend(Subject to planning permission) comprising two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs toilet,bathroom. No chain

107 Carrington Road, Wednesbury WS10 0JJ

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £70,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. Dixons Estate Agents, 53 High Road, Willenhall, WV12 4JR Tel No 01902 634497

56 Stroud Avenue, Willenhall WV12 4EB

PUBLIC NOTICE

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- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage & Driveway

Asking Price of £159,995

Bloxwich
Bell Tower Close,Heritage Gate
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- Cloakroom W.C.●En-uite
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Asking Price of £149,995

Walsall
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- Three Bedroom Link-Detached
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- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
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In the Region of £144,950

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- Garage●Driveway

Offers in excess of £140,000

Bloxwich
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Bloxwich
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- Cloakroom W.C.●Conservatory
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- Gas Central Heating●Double Glazing

In the Region of £114,950

Bloxwich
Beeches Road
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
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- Majority D.Glazed/Central Heating
- Gardens●Off Road Parking

In the Region of £109,950

Bloxwich
High Street
- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms●Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom●Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage with Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating●Double Glazing

Offers in excess of £104,950

Bloxwich
Harrison Street
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen●Double Glazing
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating●Rear Garden

In the Region £99,950

Walsall
Smith Road
- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge●Kitchen●Downstairs W.C.
- Family Bathroom●Rear Garden
- Majority D.Glazing●Central Heating
- Front garden with Off Road Parking

Offers in excess of £95.000

Bloxwich
Archer Road
- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge●Kitchen/Diner
- Double Glazing●Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking●NO CHAIN

Offers Over £90,000

Willenhall
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In the Region of £89,950

Bloxwich
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- Kitchen/Diner●Family Bathroom
- Majority D.Glazing●Gas Central Heating
- Front & Rear Gardens●No Chain

Fixed Price of £87,000

Bloxwich
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- Utility Room●Loft Room
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Walsall
Fleming Road
- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace House
- Lounge●Dining Room
- Fitted Kitchen●Veranda
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens●NO CHAIN

In the Region of £85,000

Bloxwich
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Asking Price of £84,995

Bloxwich
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Bloxwich
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- Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £79,950

Walsall
Arnold Close
- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
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- Dining Room●Cloakroom W.C.
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Lichfield Road
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- Family Bathroom●Off Road Parking
- Communal Gardens

In the Region of £75,000

Bloxwich
Blakenall Lane
- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens●NO CHAIN

In the Region of £75,000

Bloxwich
Ashbourne Road
- Three Bedroom Terrace
- In need of Modernisation
- Gas Central Heating● Entrance Hall
- Lounge●Kitchen/Diner●Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Offers in excess of £70,000

Bloxwich
Guild Court
- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge/Diner●Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Family Bathroom●Allocated Parking
- Gas Central Heating●NO CHAIN

Offers in excess of £65,000

Bloxwich
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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Journalists head for hills in sporty new Astra GTCs

Journalists were given a practice run and a timed round at Loton Park

From left, club instructor Tim Cross, of Claverley, clerk of the course Jim Gazey of Bridgnorth and course marshal John Mould, from Stourbridge, with vehicle dynamics manager Gerry Baker and GTC product manager Douglas McColm, of Vauxhall

THE UK's oldest surviving car manufacturer Vauxhall chose two Midlands speed hill climb venues to launch its new Astra GTC to the nation's journalists this week.

First in line to host the event was Hagley Car Club at Loton Park, near Shrewsbury, one of the longest tracks in the country.

Drivers were taken up the twisting course by experienced local instructors, who themselves regularly compete at the venue. Each journalist was then given one practice run and one competitive timed run to put the new car through its paces.

MSA Clerk of the Course, Jim Gazey, commented: "We don't really expect any problems, but Vauxhall have brought a couple of extra cars just in case anybody gets too enthusiastic.

"This course is rated as being one of the most demanding tracks in the country and we are sure that the journalists will have a great opportunity to enjoy themselves and also to judge the performance of the cars at first hand."

The second venue for the launch was historic Shelsley Walsh, where original Vauxhalls competed in the early 1900s, and once again the drivers pitted themselves against the clock in the latest company offerings.

The new Astra GTC starts at just over £18,000 rising to over £22,000 depending on specification.

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Today Tomorrow Toyota

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Blue is the colour says HonestJohn

Super Blue – the fuel efficient Hyundai i10 Blue is exempt from road tax and the London Congestion Charge

THE HYUNDAI i10 Blue is an award-winner – earlier this year it took the Honest John award as the 'Most genuinely economical petrol-engined car'.

The i10 Blue is a recent addition to the popular i10 range and offers customers even greater value for money than ever before.

It emits just 99g/km, so it is exempt from VED and the London Congestion Charge, delivers a combined fuel economy of 67.3mpg and costs from only £9,195.

Dan Harrison, editor of HonestJohn.co.uk, commented: "Nothing gets our users going quite like fuel economy; when consumption in real life fails to live up to the official published figure, they soon let us know about it.

"So it's good to be able to reward the models which come closest to matching – or improving on the official fuel consumption figure and the Hyundai i10 Blue is one of the best examples of this by genuinely delivering over 60mpg in real-world driving."

Tony Whitehorn, Hyundai Motor UK managing director. said: "Hyundai is committed to researching and developing cleaner, more efficient powertrains to reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. The Blue drive system – which includes an ultra-efficient 1.0-litre petrol engine and Intelligent Stop & Go technology – ensures that the i10 Blue is one of the cheapest cars to buy and run on sale today."

The www.honestjohn.co.uk website was set-up in 2000 to help consumers with advice on buying, selling and running cars. Since then HonestJohn himself has answered more than 600,000 consumer questions.

New DS5 is packed with safety features

The Citroën DS5 includes a new generation Lane Departure Warning System and colour driving information

THE NEW Citroën DS5 has a five-star safety rating in the latest round of Euro NCAP crash tests, along with an impressive 97 per cent score in the Safety Assist category.

The third model in the critically acclaimed DS line, Citroën DS5 boasts dynamic and reassuring road manners, a reinforced body structure and a range of high-performance, protection-enhancing technologies.

Safety features include Electronic Brakeforce Distribution, Emergency Brake Assist, Intelligent Traction Control, an advanced speed-limiter/cruise control system and a cornering light function.

The strong Euro NCAP safety results were achieved through 'Créative Technologie' equipment available exclusively on Citroën DS5, including:

- A new-generation Lane Departure Warning System that 'reads' the road using a camera built into the upper part of the windscreen, which alerts drivers when they drift off line.
- An automatic high-beam function that, using images processed from the same camera, activates and deactivates the high-beam setting in line with lighting conditions and surrounding traffic.
- A colour head-up display that shows key driving information – such as speed, speed-limiter/cruise control and navigation system settings – in the driver's field of vision.

Innovative

Everyday peace of mind is ensured by innovative services including the Citroën eTouch Emergency & Assistance system, which earned DS5, together with Citroën's other latest models, the Euro NCAP Advanced award. This accolade is given to innovative systems that ensure the highest safety levels, whilst retaining mass market affordability.

The Citroën eTouch system automatically or manually makes emergency or assistance calls, using a built-in SIM card, for precise vehicle localisation and rapid intervention in the event of an accident or if the car has become immobilised.

Linda Jackson, Citroën UK's Managing Director, said: "Attention to safety is paramount in any Citroën model and we're delighted that New DS5 has performed so well in the latest Euro NCAP tests.

"This stunning new car will soon be joining an exciting product line that sets some of the highest standards for safety in their respective classes."

New Citroën DS5 made its European premiere at the Frankfurt Motor Show and goes on sale in the UK early in 2012.

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MINI

The MINI One Hatch is available with NIL (£0) advance payment on the Motability Car Scheme for those individuals receiving the higher rate mobility component of the Disability Living Allowance. Subsequent rental payments are made by diversion of this component of the living allowance. Additional charges may be payable, including excess mileage, damage excess and early termination charges. Model featured is a MINI One Hatch, available with NIL (£0) advance payment. All prices are correct at time of going to press and subject to change without notice. Official Fuel Economy Figures for the MINI Range: Urban 27.4-67.3 mpg (10.3-4.2 l/100km). Extra Urban 45.6-80.7 mpg (6.2-3.5 l/100km). Combined 36.7-74.3 mpg (7.7-3.8 l/100km). CO2 Emissions 180-99 g/km.

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The Bandit would have scored higher for this reviewer if it had fairings

Made for pleasure

By John Griffiths

IT DIDN'T take long for the Bandit to steal my motorcycling heart: Just a few miles with this latest 1,250cc model from the Suzuki gang was enough.

You ride a big, lazy wave of torque from low revs, in the manner of big capacity touring machines at twice the £7,045 price.

Yet despite its size, the new Bandit is wonderfully agile, ready to be flicked left or right like a dedicated sports bike, more with a thought than any physical effort.

It's quick yet comfortable, a mile-muncher that doesn't leave older riders like me with aching wrists and back after a run to the coast. For many, the new Bandit is all the bike you'll ever need. With a little under 100bhp, the Bandit 1250 isn't the most powerful but it is among the most useable.

With its engine tuned for torque at low revs rather than screaming power, a slight twist of the throttle will see you safety past traffic without the need to change down, and help cut your journey time without risking your licence.

A computer-controlled, secondary throttle valve works in conjunction with the rider's hand on the twist grip, providing a smoother flow of power and torque and reducing the tendency to jerkiness familiar with earlier fuel injection systems.

A small technical point, but in everyday use it enhances the expensive tourer feel of this new Suzuki.

The Bandit has a relatively short wheelbase for a large capacity machine and excellent balance makes it a nimble machine too, easy and fun on twisty roads. It feels much tighter and lighter than many of its rivals.

It's comfortable, too, with no aches or pains in these old bones to report even after 200 miles of A and B roads in the saddle. And it returned a respectable 46mpg, too.

Styling

For these with shorter legs, the new seat can be lowered by some 20mm.

This latest version of the ubiquitous Bandit has a number of changes, mainly styling, to give it an edgier, almost futuristic look now de rigueur among the 'street' or naked bike set.

Most noticeable are the black engine, the reshaped headlamp, new rear lights, improved frame and the instruments: a big digital LCD speedo, clock, fuel and gear indicator alongside the traditional analogue rev counter.

The muffler design is new, too, and the exhaust system includes some new technology to cut CO2 emissions.

The six-speed gear box is particularly slick and positive, and the brakes are smoothly powerful, complementing the bike's performance potential. Oddly, though, an anti-lock braking system is only available on the £7,555 SA version.

I would give this bike a nine out of ten score: it might well have been ten had it not been a naked machine. Popular as they are, I'm not really a fan of unfaired machines – I had a 600 Bandit of my own some years ago and quickly added a small after-market fly screen to deflect the wind pressure.

To be fair, this wasn't a real problem on my seaside trip but then I was blessed with fine weather and no long motorway run where unfaired bikes can be tiring.

With the standard 1250 costing a very reasonable £7,045, I would certainly invest another £510 for the 1250SA, with its screen and bikini fairing. The Bandit has been a top-selling model in the Suzuki range for some years now, and has evolved to more than keep pace with its competitors. This latest model, with its smooth power and nimble handling shouldn't disappoint either tourer or sports bike aficionados. And its value for money price tag will certainly appeal to both.

NOSE TO TAIL LIGHT

Engine: Four cylinder, 1,255cc double overhead cam with fuel injection producing 95.5bhp with six speed gearbox.

Suspension: Telescopic forks with preload adjustment (front) and link type, coil spring with preload and rebound adjustment.

Wheels and tyres: 120/70ZR17 (front) and 180/55ZR17 (rear).

Brakes: Twin 310mm discs (front); 240mm disc (rear).

Fuel tank capacity: 19 litres.

Warranty: Two years, unlimited mileage.

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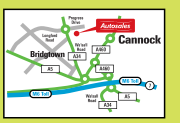

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The Suzuki Alto VAT free range starts from £6,665*. The Suzuki Swift VAT free range starts from £8,880*

*VAT FREE offer is based on Alto SZ2 available at £6,665 including a customer saving of £1,330 which equals the VAT amount of the previous on the road price of £7,995. Offer also available on the Alto SZ3 and SZ4 models.
*VAT Free offer is based on the Swift SZ2 3 door available at £8,880 including a customer saving of £1,780 which equals the VAT of the previous on the road price of £10,660. Offer also available on the Swift SZ3 and SZ4 3 door and 5 door models. Model shown information relates to the Swift SZ4 5 door available at £10,820 including a customer saving of £2,165 which equals the VAT of the previous on the road price of £12,985. This offer is subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st October 2011 and 31st December 2011 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications are correct at the time of going to press. **The Alto 1.0 M/T falls into Government Vehicle Excise Band B at £20 per year, from year 2 onwards, first year free. †ESP is a registered trademark of Daimler AG.

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Alto model shown is the 1.0 SZ4 M/T available VAT Free at £7,785 (metallic paint available at £380). ΔAlto range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 42.1 (6.7) to 51.4 (5.5), extra urban from 62.8 (4.5) to 74.3 (3.8), combined from 54.3 (5.2) to 64.2 (4.4). Official CO2 emissions from 122g/km to 103g/km.

Model shown is the Swift 1.2 SZ4 M/T available at £10,820* with customer savings on all models from £1,780 to £2,335. ††Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): urban from 41.5 (6.8) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 57.6 (4.9) to 78.5 (3.6), combined from 50.4 (5.6) to 67.3 (4.2). Official CO2 emissions from 129g/km to 109g/km.

county air ambulance

Safety first – for everyone

Honda's technological advances in the field of safety will benefit all road users

THE MOST important focus throughout the development of the new 2012 Civic was safety – not just for the occupants of the car but other road users, such as pedestrians and cyclists.

"Honda has a high tech crash test facility in Tochigi, Japan. There we were able to crash the new Civic into vehicles of different weights and sizes, and at different angles and speeds. We wanted to make sure that we are offering the best 'real world' safety for our customers." said Mitsuru Kariya, Civic development leader.

One of the ways that this is achieved in the new Civic is through the Advanced Compatibility Engineering body structure.

This is a front-mounted polygonal frame that is designed to prevent the cabin becoming deformed by distributing forces away from the passenger compartment.

Warning

"Just as important as technology that protects you in a crash is technology that helps you avoid an accident in the first place" said Kariya. "This is the first time that the CMBS system has been introduced on the Civic in Europe."

Honda's Collision Mitigation Braking System (CMBS) monitors the distance and closing rate between the vehicle and the car directly in front of it, warning the driver when a collision is likely and helping reduce impact when a collision becomes unavoidable. The technology automatically assists with heavy braking and tightens the seatbelts to reduce loading on the driver during an accident.

The new Civic also features sophisticated pedestrian protection features. "I am very proud that Honda has a leading reputation for pedestrian safety. It's an area in the new Civic that has been constantly worked upon," said Julian Warren, senior safety engineer.

Pedestrian protection features include windscreen wiper pivots designed to break away on impact and energy absorbing front wing mounts.

The last of five films on the development of the new Civic features Honda engineers discussing safety technology. The video can be viewed at www.youtube.com/hondavideo

The new 2012 Civic was unveiled at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September and order books at Honda dealerships are now open.

Cars will arrive in dealerships during January.

The new braking system monitors the distance from the car in front

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Gear up for safer winter motoring

With the threat of another 'frozen Britain' this winter, motorists should be prepared for some tricky driving conditions over the coming months, and the Retail Motor Industry (RMI) has some suggestions for how to avoid accidents, cope with a breakdown or just drive safely over the winter period.

Poor visibility, minimal daylight hours, bad weather and worse roads conspire to make driving tiring, unpleasant, and sometimes even dangerous.

The Retail Motor Industry (RMI) is the trade body that represents motor sector businesses in the UK that provide sales and services to motorists. The RMI sees every journey as an opportunity to prevent the worst from happening and there is a great deal of preventative action that you can undertake.

Before setting off ensure you have:

Sufficient fuel for your journey; mobile phone and cigarette-lighter charger; warm clothes in the car; listened to the travel news and check the weather forecast. The need for seasonal preparation also extends to the various systems that run the car.

Antifreeze

Make sure that the antifreeze in the car is fresh. Insufficient or 'old' anti-freeze can cause hose, water pump or other major units to fail leading to overheating. Anti-freeze should be changed every two years, or according to manufacturer recommendations, due to the deterioration of the corrosion inhibitors.

Heaters and ventilation

Make sure all systems are working so that misting is minimised – do not switch off your air-conditioning as this keeps moisture and condensation to a minimum.

Spray a lock lubricant into the door locks to prevent seizing up

De-icing

On cold mornings use a de-icer on windows, or a scraper – NEVER hot water. Spray a special carborundum powder lock lubricant into the door locks to prevent seizing up. Never use a damp inhibitor on a modern lock. Check that the screen wash is not clogged and that the bottle is topped up for use and make sure that an additive is used to stop it freezing.

Tyres

Tyre tread depth should be at least 1.6 mm across the central three-quarters of the breadth of the tread and around the entire circumference, and there should be no cuts or cracks.

Other things to do include:

Make sure the battery is in good condition; check windscreen wipers for wear and replace them if necessary; give all external lights and mirrors a thorough clean; headlamps should be correctly aligned.

Once the car is ready for winter, it's worth compiling an emergency kit, to be kept in the boot, so that in the event of a breakdown you're prepared

Useful supplies could include: Torch, spare batteries and bulbs; screen scraper/ de-icer; warning triangle; first-aid kit; hands free mobile phone, phone card and cash; blankets and warm jacket/robust shoes (in case of breakdown); shovel (to clear snow if necessary); fire extinguisher; rope (for towing if necessary); road atlas, maps etc.

Lights

You need to make sure that the light settings match the driving conditions. As the winter months go on, drivers will find themselves using their lights more and more, but the use of the lights will need to be appropriate for the road conditions. If conditions change during a journey, alter your light settings accordingly. For example, if you use front and rear fog lights unnecessarily you will be breaking the law. It is an offence to apply them on a clear night, when they could dazzle other road users. If you set out and conditions improve during your journey, remember to switch to normal lights

Conditions

Separate from the issue of lights, fog is still one of the worst problems. Other culprits include rain, ice, sleet, and snow. All of these can lead to dangerous driving conditions, but cannot cause accidents without the assistance of one vital catalyst, usually provided by the driver – speed.

To clear the windscreen use a de-icer or scraper – never hot water

Speed

In the winter, speed can be your enemy, so winter driving means steady driving. Stopping distances double in the rain and these extend even further with worn tyres, when roads are icy they can increase 10 times. You should always keep well back from the vehicle in front, but in the winter you should be even further back. On treacherous roads, even if yours is the only car for miles, you should drive as slowly as possible in the lowest practical gear. Apart from checking your speed, you also need to consider the way you handle the car as a whole. Steering, gears, clutch and accelerator should all be used more gently.

Essentially, safety in the winter comes down to four things:

Check your car
Be prepared for anything
Be cautious
Monitor your speed

If you try to follow these rules you should find yourself on the road to safe winter driving. To make sure your car is ready for the road in the first place, book your car in for a service. Careful preparation by the motorist can only go so far.

With careful driving and proper preparation, drivers can travel safely through the winter.

Autumn leaves could become your downfall

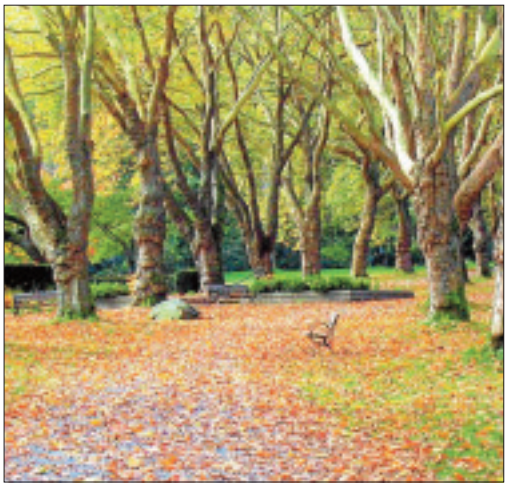
AUTUMN driving: don't 'leaf' anything to chance, drivers are being warned.

The IAM (Institute of Advanced Motorists) has called for drivers to take extra care in the riskier driving conditions.

IAM Chief Examiner Peter Rodger said: "Autumn may be a beautiful time for a drive out to the country, but it carries its own risks.

"Hitting a patch of wet leaves can be as dangerous as running into standing water, when lower grip can reduce braking and steering.

"Piles of leaves could be obscuring a pot hole and with road surface conditions in a poor state after last winter, this is a distinct possibility."



A lovely scene but roads covered with leaves can be dangerous

Tips

The change in the seasons can also take its toll on your car.

Mr Rodger offers some simple tips on maintaining your car during this period:

- Clear out plenum chambers, the tray-like area under the bonnet, below the windscreen, as they can fill up with water when they get blocked with leaves. This water can seep into the car's electrics, causing expensive and potentially dangerous damage
- In cold weather, clear windscreens of condensation or ice before setting off. Always give yourself extra time, to ensure visibility is at an optimum before starting your journey
- Make sure your wiper blades are in good condition. If they squeak as they wipe, they probably need replacing, and always make sure they are turned off before starting the ignition to save the blades and the risk of a blown motor fuse when the first frost hits
- Autumn can also take its toll on car batteries, but some basic maintenance can help to prolong their life.

Keep the top of the battery clean and dry and make sure the terminals are tight and free from corrosion. And ensure that the battery itself is mounted securely in its tray. If a battery is more than three-years old, check it now; you might save yourself many a frustrating start to a morning

Mr Rodger continued: "This is also a time of greater activity in the animal world; it's mating season for deer, and smaller animals will be on the hunt to gather food for the winter hibernation period.

"If you live in an area where wildlife roam, take extra care, and remember that deer tend to move in groups; if one runs out look for others doing the same and reduce your speed in readiness."

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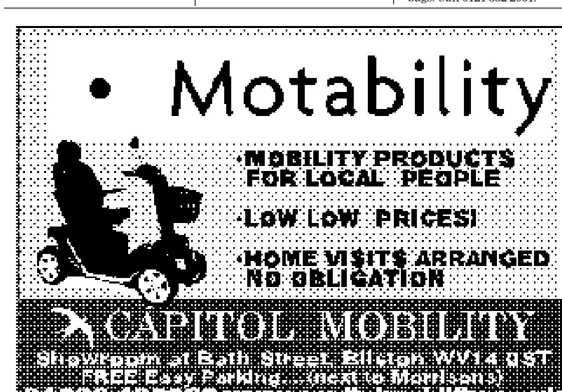

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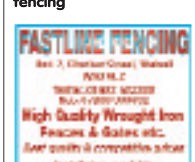

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FIAT PUNTO 2004 reg., 1 owner from new, taxed, MoT'd, 7,800 miles from new. £2,995. Tele 01543 878080.

FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC, 2003. 5-dr, 83,000 miles, FSH,. MoT. tax, very good condition. £1,895. 01922 701723 or 07831 325174.

FORD FOCUS 1.8 Ghia, 02 plate, black, extras sunroof, 5 pack CD player, tax and MoT March 2012, £1,645. 07921 846103.

FORD ST2.2 TDCI, 2005, 76,600 miles, blue, Sat Nav, Zenons, DVD screens, parking sensors. Ring for info, excellent condition, £6,500 ono. 07815 792356.

HONDA HRV 1.6, 2000, 3 door, hatchback, 77k, MoT, tax, alloy wheels, e/w, CD, good condition, £1,995. 01543 490988.

HYUNDAI i10, auto, November 2008, tax November 2011, one owner, 7,500 miles, £4,950 ono. Telephone 07735 298474.

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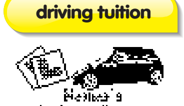

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LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE VARIATION

Premises: Forest Community Association

Hawbush Road, Leamore, Walsall WS3 1AG

Notice is hereby given that Forest Community Association have applied to Walsall Council as the Licensing Authority for the variation of a premises licence under s.34 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The Proposed Variation:

Variation of times relating to Regulated Entertainment and Entertainment Facilities

The addition of Sale of Alcohol

Anyone who wishes to make representations regarding this application must give notice in writing to: The Licensing Unit, Walsall Council, Challenge Building, Hatherton Road, Walsall WS1 1YG. Representations must be received no later than : 17 November 2011

The Application Record and Register may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address.

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000).

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JOY very hot fun loving 35yr old American female over on regular business, looking for English gent for naughty convenient friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 378507

JANE 40s, blonde blue eyed petite build, with tea, WLTM understanding, tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 375141

DIONNE 5ft 3ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, 42, single mum, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 378801

SHARON 32, attractive black single mum of one, very female and WLTM male 45-55yrs for fun meets. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 378585

29YR old large black female looking for much older male, up to 70yrs, for friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 370017

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 380317

SLIM attractive lady with long auburn hair just want to have a good time with like-minded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 383119

KIRSTY 36 attractive, blonde, seeking open-minded decent male for fun friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 379073

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 383277

SUZANNA lonely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable man for lots of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 375711

VERY attractive 1[illegible]yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up, 30-60. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 384311

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to help her to mend and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 377482

28YR old tall good looking and single, just looking for a bit of fun with spontaneous, open minded man. You won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 375137

SLIM young looking blonde who loves everything about life looking for attractive honest guy to spend fun. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 374141

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, female, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age looks. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 378483

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves country side, animals, cooking, WLTM older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 378481

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 378209

CARLY beautiful slim brunette looking for naughty mature male 50-70yrs for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 378589

I'M attractive, very female with an hourglass figure, looking for fun and good times. Can you help? Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 368889

DIVORCED very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 370029

ANNA 20yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 375139

BETTY fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTM older chocolate loving male for sexy fun meets. Any race. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 377511

YOUNG looking attractive slim blonde, very lonely WLTM nice guy for whatever life throws at us. No expectations. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 379111

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 378295

CAROL petite brunette, 38yrs, romantic, affectionate, outgoing, seeks similar male for nice times together. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 377513

PUSSY Galore seeking very own James Bond for romance. Jeanette 42yr, attractive, slim, leggy cheeky extremely loving and single. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 377989

STACY 24yr old gorgeous brunette with good figure, intelligent and WLTM genuine male to get to know for fun dates and more. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 377509

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 378207

LITTLE Miss nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 369423

CAROL 54, chubby build, bubbly likes nights out, seeks male of similar age for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 379895

VICKY 24, adventurous looking for fun with male, any age free. Call me, I won't disappoint! Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 377987

JAN 41, fed up of sitting at home every weekend watching trash TV alone. I feel the same and looking for love? Please contact me. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 377991

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MALE 45, 5ft 7ins, medium build, short hair, N/S, no ties, honest, likes sports, cinema, countryside, LTR, seeks female, 20-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 332453

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JEFF 60s, 6ft, fit, seeks female for relationship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6582 Box No: 378571

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Villa go down in tightly-contested derby with Bloxwich

PELSALL VILLA 0 BLOXWICH UNITED 2

BLOXWICH ended their run of six games without a win with a well deserved victory in the derby encounter at Pelsall.

Richard Joyce delivered an inviting low cross into the Pelsall box in the 15th minute but the Bloxwich forwards failed to find a finishing touch.

Bloxwich's Mark Wooldridge then headed wide from another good ball into the box from Ash Bellingham in the 22nd minute before Ash Southall hooked a shot into the side netting when well placed just a minute later.

A Josh Jones long throw into the Pelsall box in the 30th minute was flicked on by Ash Southall to Lewis Perry who saw his downward header at the back post well saved by the keeper.

Pelsall responded and forced a good save from Gavin Ellis with a well struck free kick just minutes later

Bloxwich continued to threaten and Southall and Perry combined well in midfield to release George Price on the left to cross for Josh Jones who headed over.

Pelsall tried their luck with a few long range efforts before Bloxwich were denied a certain scoring opportunity in the 42nd minute when Mark Wooldridge raced onto a superb through ball from Adrian Jones only to be fouled on the edge of the box by the Pelsall keeper.

Pattern

Josh Jones and Lewis Perry both forced good saves from the keeper late in the half as Bloxwich found themselves unlucky not to be in front at the break. With the second half following much the same pattern as the first Bloxwich finally went in front in the 59th minute when Ash Bellingham powered home a header from a Mark Wooldridge corner.

Pelsall saw a half chance go wide before Bloxwich grabbed their second of the game in the 65th minute when Josh Jones tapped home from the edge of the six yard area following some good play down the right between Adrian Jones and Mark Wooldridge. With Bloxwich well on top Ash Bellingham saw his 30 yard strike come back off the bar and Ash Southall hit the post with a well struck volley from a Josh Jones cross. Pelsall had a goal ruled out for offside and saw a corner clip the bar late in the game.

Below-par Pics sent packing in Trophy tie

RUSHALL 0 CAMBRIDGE CITY 2

LACKLUSTRE Rushall were knocked out of the FA Trophy by two second-half goals, *writes Darren Stockall.*

An early free-kick for the visitors allowed Danny Kelly a shooting opportunity 25 yards out that Chris Gemmell was forced to parry.

In the 11th minute City were again on the offensive as Jamie Gould tried his luck from 40 yards out but his effort was easily held.

Little had been seen of Rushall on the attack by this stage and on 21 minutes the Lilywhites once more went in search of an opening.

A long throw from the right was headed inches wide of his own post by Christian Dacres but for some reason referee Mayhew awarded a goal kick.

Four minutes before the interval there was more danger for Olympic as Kelly brought the ball under control through the left channel before cutting inside and drilling a fine effort narrowly wide of the top right corner.

In the 44th minute Rushall were again under pressure as Joey Abbs progressed down the left and fired just past the post from 25 yards out.

On the stroke of half-time the Pics threatened when Ahmed Obeng darted into space but he fired timidly wide.

The turning point arrived in the 58th minute when an excellent centre from the right by Richard Blythe was played into the City box.

Drilled

Luke Bottomer seemed certain to head his side in front but appeared to be shoved in the back, although referee Mayhew was having none of it.

Olympic were punished barely two minutes later when Gould dribbled his way beyond the home rearguard and curled a fine finish.

On 65 minutes the visitors were again on the offensive as a centre from the left picked out the unmarked Craig Hammond who unleashed a volley from 12 yards out that Gemmell somehow kept out with a stunning reflex save.

With 16 minutes left Blythe tried his luck from 30 yards out with a drive that was always going over the crossbar.

Cambridge sealed the tie when Abbs drilled home from close range with seven minutes left.

● This weekend Rushall are at Stourbridge in the FA Cup Fourth Qalifying Round, bidding to make trhe first round proper for the first time.

Wood hopes are dashed by late goals

WALSALL•WOOD 2 CASTLE•VALE 5

TWO late goals ended Walsall Wood's hopes of earning a reward from an entertaining clash with Castle Vale, *writes Bill Shaw.*

Vale were ahead inside two minutes when keeper Joe McElgan's kick was touched on by Danny O'Callaghan and Ahmet Bilgimer raced clear before tucking the ball past Adam Braddock.

Wood's Scott Cooper went close with a 30-yard free-kick and was then involved in a neat move down the right that ended with Mark Bandurak heading home Tom Howard's cross to level the scores.

Adam Langley went close with a low drive as Wood continued to press.

The hosts hit back with O'Callaghan forcing a brilliant one-handed save from Braddock.

Bandurak was denied just before the break when his shot was stopped on the line by Danny Tymon.

Wood struck early in the second half when Howard headed home.

But their lead only lasted a minute with Bilgimer forcing an error on the edge of the six-yard box and firing home.

Castle edged in front when Joe Halsall netted from close range.

Wood responded and McElgan saved bravely at the feet of Taylor Boyce before Howard fired just wide.

But Wood were rocked five minutes from time when Karl Douglas. hammered home Vale's fourth goal.

The scoreline was given a flattering look when O'Callaghan netted a penalty to make it 5-2.

Brown earns visitors a point

DUDLEY TOWN 1 SPORTING KHALSA 1

DUDLEY Town's inability to keep clean sheets cost them two points as a late equaliser from Leo Brown gave Sporting Khalsa a share of the spoils at The Dell.

Following the previous Wednesday's emphatic 12-3 victory over Wolverhampton United Andy Burgess decided to stick with five goal hero Rion Francis-Mills in his starting 11 along with Nikki Faux.

Sporting Khalsa had the better of the opening exchanges in a tightly contested West Midlands (Regional) League Premier Division fixture and they should have taken the lead less than five minutes in – striker Nicky Campbell could only shoot tamely at Luke Cunningham.

The best chance of the early play fell to the visitors. Dangerous striker Leo Brown's shot was excellently plucked onto the post by Cunningham leading to a melee that was somehow cleared off the line and hacked away by Steve Edmunds.

Just two minutes before the half-hour mark Dudley went ahead with a simple header from Francis-Mills.

In the early stages of the second period it seemed that the hosts would eventually stretch their lead to two goals. It wasn't to be and as the game drew to its close Khalsa threatened and scored an 88th minute equaliser, leaving Dudley without a clean sheet since April 2. On Saturday, Dudley travel to lowly Bustleholme.

Winning form is maintained

BLOXWICH 1ST XI 4 STAFFORD 2ND XI 0

BLOXWICH continued their winning form with another good passing game .

Two team goals scored in less than two minutes towards the end of the first half was Bloxwich's reward for sustained pressure throughout the first 35 minutes.

Good finishing by regular goalscorers Vicky Jackson and Hayley Scott started the ball rolling. More patient hockey in the second half resulted in two more goals , with Deb Stow on the scoresheet for the second week in succession and Neesha Patel (Sanka) also getting a look in

Author's dedication to beloved Darlo FC

DARLASTON Town are having a torrid time at the moment as they prop up the West Midlands League Premier Division. Life at the Black Country club has not always been so tough and the team has had plenty of success over the years.

A new book by long-time fan Neil Chambers, detailing the history of the club, is due to be published on November 7. It charts every major event in its history, spanning more than 130 years.

> The History of Darlaston Town FC, to be published next month, is a labour of love for long-time supporter Neil Chambers

Chambers, of Norton Canes, said: "When I started my research I had no idea myself of the history of the club. It was just something that interested me and was a labour of love.

"I have found out that the club has a fantastic history and along the way.

I have met some wonderful people who have memories of Darlaston Town FC."

Pigeons

The book which is packed with facts, figures, 100 photographs and stories, looks back to when the club was formed and recounts tales of some footballing legends, all of whom have played a part in the history of "Darlo", including Sir Stanley Matthews, John Charles, Bert Williams and Derek Dougan

The book also features Jack Burkitt, a favourite son of Darlaston. After a two-year spell at Town, Burkitt signed for Nottingham Forest and skippered them at Wembley to their only FA Cup Final win – against Luton Town in 1959. In the 1940s, as recounted to the author by Jack Burkitt's brother Bill, pigeons were used to relay the scores of Darlaston matches to their father, who ran family pub The Jollier Collier, in Meeting Street, Wednesbury.

The book also includes the story of the proud day Jack brought the FA Cup back to Wednesbury to show his in-laws.

What is perhaps remarkable is that Darlaston had four other FA Cup winners who have played for them, as have two England internationals, a Welsh international and an England skipper. For a club of its size and stature no other can boast such impressive credentials, Chambers said.

Another fact is that 44 players have played for them and subsequently played in the Football League, and 71 players have played in the Football League before joining Darlaston.

The book includes a short biography of all 115 players who have played for Darlaston and have appeared in the Football League including at such illustrious clubs as Manchester United, Arsenal, Spurs, Aston Villa and Wolves.

One game against Villa was abandoned due to crowd trouble, and complaints were made to the FA by opposition clubs when the pitch was deemed a yard too narrow and the goals an inch too small.

Chairman

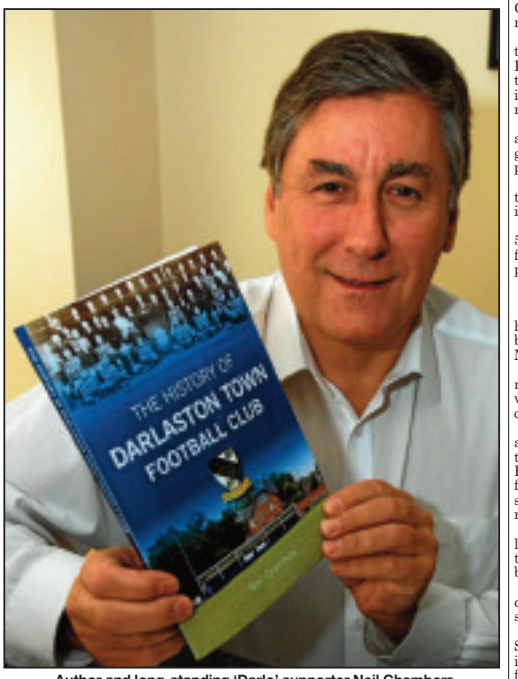
Town even played one game with blue goalposts and blue lines.

Chambers said: "You cannot make some of this up. If anything could go wrong in a game of football then you can be pretty sure it has involved Darlaston Town."

The book is not confined to just looking at players. Over the years, the club has been helped by hundreds of committee men and women without it would not exist today.

People such as former chairman Frank Stead and club president Sir Alfred Owen, the Rubery Owen industrialist, both spent more than 20 years serving Darlaston Town.

To order a £7.50 copy of The History of Darlaston Town FC, email chambers568@btinternet.com or call the author on 01543 458348.



Author and long-standing 'Darlo' supporter Neil Chambers

FA Cup-winning skipper Jack Burkitt and wife Hazel at his in-laws' home in Bilston Lane, Wednesbury

The 1946-47 team included Jack Burkitt, back, second from left

The 1937-38 team is rated 'probably Darlaston Town's best ever', winning the Birmingham Combination league championship

Out of luck and denied consolation

WOLVES 38 COVENTRY 52
(COVENTRY WIN MIDLAND BOWL 109-76)

FREDDIE Lindgren won the first race of Wolves' season back at Birmingham in March and the last at Monmore Green. It's just the seven months in the middle that didn't go so well.

Both teams looked to boost their line-ups for the Midland Bowl clashes – a move that looked good on paper but became a classic imbalance on track.

Coventry pulled in Rory Schlein – the new Elite Riders Champion – and Chris Harris, enervated by his 2012 deal with the Bees, and still found room to borrow Monmore man Nicolai Klindt.

Wolves drafted in Adam Skornicki but nothing went right for the hero of the 2009 title-winning side. And with Tai Woffinden still sidelined there was a gaping hole where the home team's middle order was meant to be, though the gap was plugged valiantly by Ty Proctor.

Wolves, eight points down after just five races, worked their way back into the match with the help of retirements for Klindt – who found himself in deeper and deeper going as he tried to get round Karlsson and eventually came to a halt by the fence – and Stuart Robson.

But when Proctor, who had spearheaded a heat eight 5-1, failed to beat the time allowance two races later you sensed that the Parrys International Wolves' moment had passed.

Coventry, with Schlein and Harris in fine fettle, duly closed out the match with three successive maximum heat wins.

Wolves had looked like signing off with a consolation Lindgren/Karlsson 5-1 in the last. But even that was to be denied them as the Coventry star Harris managed to split the pairing off the final turn

sport

Aldridge's unbeaten league run ends at the hands of high-flying Bromyard

BROMYARD 55 ALDRIDGE 7

ALDRIDGE'S unbeaten league run came to a juddering halt when they visited Midlands 5 West (North) high fliers Bromyard in last Saturday's encounter.

The visitors' forwards just about held parity in the set pieces but couldn't cope with the home side's organisation and pace out wide.

Aldridge got the best possible start though when after two minutes, flanker Adam Reed intercepted a pass within the home side's 22 and scampered over to touch down between the posts. Chris Jones converted and then it became repetitive one-way traffic in the other direction. Aldridge battled on but they had no answers whenever the home side moved the ball out along their backs.

In the first half Bromyard scored three converted tries, a try and a penalty and three converted tries and a try in the second.

THERE'S NO TALK OF 'R' WORD HERE

DARRYL Westlake moved this week to banish talk of a relegation struggle but insisted that Saddlers must avoid another horror season. The right-back warned the Saddlers they cannot afford a second battle against the drop. Dean Smith's side were left just two points off the drop zone after one win in nine League One games.

Last Saturday's 2-1 defeat at Tranmere left Walsall 17th going into Tuesday night's game against Exeter City. But Westlake, a survivor from last season's Great Escape where the Saddlers survived by a point on the last day of the season at Southampton, insists they cannot afford any negativity.

He said: "We don't want to get into that position again because it was a horrible year and a horrible feeling knowing we could have got relegated.

"We go into every game having done the right preparation in training and knowing we can be the equal of teams in the league.

"I wouldn't say talking about relegation is banned but we don't want to get it into our minds, if it is we could slip into what happened last season and we could get worse."

TRANMERE ROVERS 2 WALSALL 1

Difficult

"It's a bit early to say at the moment. If we're still struggling at Christmas then we should be looking over our shoulders," said the 20-year-old.

"At the moment we just need to keep playing well and get the points.

"We've played teams who are up at the top of the league, like Sheffield United, and we could have won up there.

"No team is really difficult in the league, we know we can beat every side but we know we need to start winning games."

Last season's visit to Prenton Park provided the catalyst for the 'Great Escape'. This season's visit served as a reminder they may need another one this time around.

But Walsall's 2-1 defeat also showed yet again that it shouldn't come to that. Dean Smith is building a side more capable than the current lowly position suggests.

A repeat of last season's rousing 3-3 draw, in his first game in charge of Walsall, would probably have been more than satisfactory for the Saddlers boss.

But for a lack of concentration at two crucial times and two well-crafted goals, they could easily have left Merseyside with a point for the second season running.

The Saddlers were forced on to the defensive for long periods but, for the most part, they were able to contain and frustrate a side that may well be challenging for the play-offs in May.

Manny Smith and Andy Butler dealt with the plethora of crosses pinged in at them well and there were periods in both halves where the home crowd threatened to turn on their misfiring team.

Smith's side were ultimately undone by two moves of quality but, by his own admission, they also lost concentration at a vital time and wound up paying a heavy price.

Andy Butler's towering header, from Jamie Paterson's excellent right-wing cross, looked set to have earned his team a valuable point when it arrived 17 minutes from time. But having got themselves level – a considerable achievement against a side with eight clean sheets to their name this season – they were unable to see out the final minutes.

That Mustafa Tiriyaki's winner with 11 minutes left was the former Havant & Waterlooville striker's first league goal will mean nothing to Saddlers fans or players. Nor will the fact that it came from a superb move, culminating in Zoumana Bakayogo's cut-back from David Raven's defence-splitting pass.

They will be wondering why Bakayogo was given such time to plant his cross into the 78th-minute substitute's path. It was a goal that, for all the skill involved, could have been avoided by better marking.

The Saddlers boss was left particularly frustrated as his team started both halves well. Tranmere created little of note in the first 25 minutes. And when Alex Nicholls burst past two players before smashing a low drive at keeper Fon Williams, it looked like the Walsall chief's strategy was bearing fruit.

But Tranmere grew into the game and the final 20 minutes of the half were one-way traffic. Walsall's woes were compounded by the loss of Adam Chambers to a hamstring injury after just 28 minutes, although replacement Richard Taundry provided experienced cover. Jimmy Walker excelled himself on several occasions, including a spectacular one-handed save to repel Jose Baxter's curling free-kick.

He was equally impressive when he flipped another strong effort by the Everton loanee over the bar after the ball had dropped invitingly from Lucas Akins' cutback. Even when John Welsh's corner, in the final minute of the first-half, had him beaten Butler managed to clear the ball on the line.

Deflated

In the second half, Walsall came out of the blocks with renewed purpose, but fell behind to Robbie Weir's brilliant 25-yard strike 14 minutes after the restart.

Given Tranmere's strong home record and their defensive abilities, a draw suddenly seemed a tall order.

But Smith's side managed to weather the inevitable storm and could have levelled a minute before they did when Paterson forced a fine save from Williams.

Tiriyaki's late response deflated Walsall but Richard Taundry's 90th-minute free-kick almost snatched a point right at the death, only to cannon off the crossbar with Williams seemingly beaten.

The better team won but the Saddlers could quite easily have come away with a point

Walsall:Walker, Westlake, Butler, Smith, Sadler, Hurst (Gnapka 70), Peterlin, Chambers (Taundry 28), Paterson, Nicholls, Grigg (Macken 65).

Tranmere Rovers: Fon Williams, Goodison, Showunmi (Tyriaki 78), Welsh, Weir, Taylor, McGurk (Bakayogo 68), Buchanan, Akins, Raven, Baxter (Labadie 87).

Referee: Mr C Webster (Tyne and Wear).

Attendance: 4,469.

Walsall skipper Andy Butler rises to bead Walsall's equaliser at Prenton Park

Kevan Hurst climbs to win a header against David Buchanan

Pete Fitzgerald crashes over for try No.3

Prop Pete powers to a hat-trick

WALSALL 41 LUDLOW 3

DYNAMIC Walsall prop Pete Fitzgerald powered over for three well taken tries to ensure that his team took the maximum points against a battling Ludlow team.

Fitzgerald crossed for his first try as early as the third minute. Some fine handling by the hosts saw full back Chris Mould being hauled down just short of the line. No 8 Dickson took the ball closer before Fitzgerald received Lloyd's pass to crash through would be tacklers.

The hosts continued to dictate the pattern of the game for most of the half.

Andy Fitzgerald, Rafa Ingelmo, Dave Merlin, Andy Turner and Paul Naylor, all went close to scoring. Eventually, it was Fitzgerald that instigated the next score. He made another powerful drive before the ball was quickly passed to Rafa Ingelmo. He was brought down, but the ball was again moved quickly and Mould found centre John Pette, who finished well from 20 metres.

Despite Walsall's monopoly of possession, Ludlow still found themselves in the game with a 10-0 half time deficit. They were always keen to show their attacking intent and they had players who showed that they were capable of getting through any defence.

Weaving

A Norton penalty in the first minute of the second half made it 10-3, and the home supporters began to feel rather uncomfortable.

Halbert won good lineout ball and some good quick rucks saw the ball being popped to Fitzgerald deep in opposition territory. He used his speed and strength to cross the try line and run round under the posts.

Three minutes later the hosts had their bonus point as Mould set up a counter attack from a deep kick. The Walsall full back linked up with Ingelmo, who then produced a superb weaving run over 40 metres to score a fine try. During the last ten minutes Walsall produced some of their best rugby. An attack covering 50 metres saw Wood feed Fitzgerald from a quick ruck. Nobody could stop his hat-trick try.

The Walsall forwards produced a good drive before some well-timed passes between Wood, Pette and Mould gave winger Andy Turner the space to score near the corner.

Another good conversion by Matt Wood brought the game to an end.

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Commenting on the company's plans, Managing Director, John Shotton said: "As a result of our financial strength and stability we have been able to bulk purchase a lot of our suppliers frustrated stock that has become surplus due to the High Street sales slump".

Online Expansion

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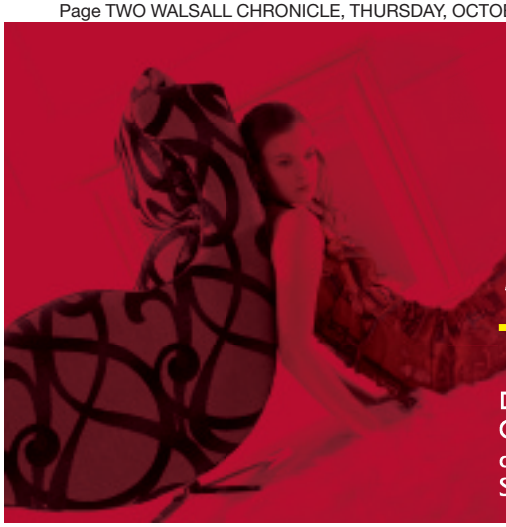

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